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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 25. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 2, 1874.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 23, 1874.

SENATE.

The bill for the protection of bottlers was reported from committee.

Mr. Dill read in place a bill authorizing the payment of newspapers that published the new Constitution without the proper order.

The following bills passed finally:

An act for the protection of fish.

An act to provide for the review by the Supreme Court of certain criminal cases.

An act authorizing the councils of cities, &c., to enter into contracts with railroad companies which enter their limits, whereby they may relocate, change or elevate their roads.

The Democratic Senators again refused to confirm the judicial appointments. The Judges' Salary bill was under consideration on second reading.

In the afternoon session, the Governor renominated all the judges rejected, and also Harry Hice, Esq., for Beaver county.

Mr. McClure read in place a bill for the publication of the acts of the Assembly.

The Senate resumed consideration of the Judges' Salary bill, as amended. The bill passed second reading. It gives the Supreme Court Judges seven thousand dollars; Judges of District and Common Pleas Courts in Philadelphia and Allegheny five thousand dollars; the President Judge of Dauphin county, five thousand dollars; Judges of Orphans' Courts now or hereafter established, in Common Pleas Judges in their respective counties.

HOUSE.

The House reconsidered the vote on House bill No. 182, and, after considerable debate, passed the same. It was relative to limitations to actions. It was charged that the bill was general in form, but intended to cover a special case in the Hazleton coal regions.

Mr. Allen, of Dauphin, tried to defeat it by saying that he had been offered five thousand dollars' worth of stock for his vote.

Mr. Webb said that alone should defeat the bill.

Mr. Cross said there was too much smoke about the bill for him to favor it.

The bill passed—49 to 40.

Mr. Webb said that alone should defeat the bill.

Mr. Cross said there was too much smoke about the bill for him to favor it.

The afternoon session was occupied principally by the reading of the bill, of fifty-seven sections, regulating cities.

A motion to suspend the rules and pass a resolution of thanks to the President pro tem. of his vote of the inflation bill, failed of the necessary two-thirds majority.

At five o'clock the House got very noisy, Mr. Josephs in the chair. Members indulged in flinging packages from one side of the hall to the other in a disorganized manner, when Mr. Stranahan got in a motion to adjourn.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 24, 1874.

SENATE.

The Judicial Salary bill was reconsidered and occupied nearly all the morning session' with attempts toamend, but was finally passed without change—yeas, 19; nays, 9.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. White, To authorize the Councils of boroughs to regulate the collection of taxes.

Mr. Dill, To facilitate the collection of debts and loans.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer presented the memorial of the Allegheny County Medical Society, praying for a State Board of Health.

Messrs. Young and Christy presented petitions against the repeal of Local Option.

Mr. Christy read in place a bill authorizing the managers of hospitals to collect expenses from other districts for caring for lunatic and paupor patients.

The supplement to the act relating to the State Treasurer and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, passed finally.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 27, 1874.

SENATE.

Owing to a clerical error in recording the vote on the Judicial Salary bill, the proceedings on third reading were expunged and the bill recommitted.

Several bills were introduced, among which were the following:

By Mr. McClure, To enable mining, manufacturing and trade companies to wind up their affairs.

By Mr. Warcaup, Authorizing railroad companies to purchase the corporate franchises of railroad companies in neighboring States.

Mr. Cooper offered a resolution directing the Railroad Committee to inquire into the causes of the Susquehanna county railroad difficulties and report what legislation is necessary to prevent their recurrence.

HOUSE.

Mr. Piper introduced a bill to prevent the manufacture and sale of adulterated and poisonous liquors.

Mr. Wolfe, For the erection of poorhouses and the support of the poor in the State.

Remonstrances from several school boards against the uniform school book system were presented.

The Senate supplement to the Act for the better protection of the wages of mechanics, miners and laborers, passed finally.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 22, 1874.

The House spent the entire day, both sessions, in discussing the Constitutional Local Option law as to authorize brewers and distillers to sell at retail in their respective counties.

When the House met, in the morning, it was crowded in every part, the leaders from Pittsburgh being present, in force, and a large crowd to look at them, their presence being as much a curiosity as a circus or menagerie. The bill came up as the first business in order, and its friends were willing, it was apparently, by the demonstration, to postpone it for the present, but its opponents were not wise enough to profit by the willingness thus shown. Mr. Toner, of Westmoreland, moved to postpone for the present. The effect of the motion would have been to take the bill off the orders, and to put it beyond the reach of a mere majority for some time to come. The opponents of the bill, however, had an idea that they could kill it, and they voted in a body against the motion to postpone, so as to bring the bill up on its merits. The vote resulted yeas 35, nays 58, some of the more shrewd friends of the bill voting with its opponents against postponement.

This was the blunder of the day. The friends of the bill immediately rallied their forces, and succeeded in voting down all motions to amend or recommit. Finally, after the failure on a motion to recommit, resulted yeas 36, nays 57, showing a clear majority for the bill, which was maintained throughout. After five hours of debate and struggle, the bill passed first reading—yeas 55, nays 39.

The crusaders naturally felt disappointed and disheartened at the result, and I sympathized with them, having been in a similar predicament. It is a pity that their coadjutors on the floor were not smart enough to act on the maxim of "Striking while the iron is a flying enemy. When the friends of the bill showed a disposition to postpone at the very front at the opening of the session, their fight should have been helped, not impeded.

The bill, it is well understood, cannot pass the Senate, and the wisdom of pressing it, in the House, is inscrutable. It may make votes for some people, but it can hardly be said to accomplish more.

The Senate had but one session, but passed thirteen bills finally, and four were amended on third reading and laid over to be printed. This is a big day's work in the Senate. When the Tax bill came up, Mr. Wallace made another effort to help the inhabitants of Philadelphia. He offered an amendment to make the tax three cents per ton on anthracite coal and one cent per ton on bituminous, alleging that a ton of anthracite was worth three of bituminous. The vote was 14 to 22, and the bill passed finally—yeas 21, nays 9.

Mr. Rutan called up the report of the Conference Committee on Senate bill No. 10, to fix the compensation of the members of the General Assembly and to regulate and define the compensation of the officers and employes thereof. The report was agreed to by a vote of yeas 18 to 12 nays.

Mr. Wallace moved to reconsider the vote by which Senate bill No. 154 for establishing courts in counties in this Commonwealth, was defeated. Agreed to by a vote of 20 yeas to 9 nays, and the bill was referred to the Committee on New Counties.

Mr. Davis read in place the following bill, entitled a "Joint resolution directing the Attorney General to prosecute certain banks and bankers in this Commonwealth:

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Pennsylvania has just appropriated sixteen hundred dollars for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the House Committee for investigating the attempted bribery of Legislators, and also a part of certain banks and bankers of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, That investigation clearly demonstrated that certain large and influential banks and banking houses in the city of Philadelphia and other parts of this Commonwealth did send checks with the avowed and expressed purpose of bribing Legislators; therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, That the Attorney General be and he is hereby directed to proceed immediately against all said brokers and banking institutions thus implicated.

One of the parties proposed to be reached under this resolution is Mr. Joseph Patterson, President of the Western Bank, of Philadelphia, whom President Grant proposes to appoint Secretary of the Treasury. He is alleged to have contributed his quota in cash, as suggested, to a fund whose only object could be to corrupt the Legislature and through bribery to pass a bill repealing the Usury laws; and Mr. Davis proposes to subject the guilty parties, however dear, to the full punishment and trial therefor. It is a singular spectacle, to say the least, to see the President selecting for his Cabinet officer a man against whom such a legislative indictment is pending. Patterson's friends in the Senate, Mr. A. J. Drexel, lacker for the Secretaryship, Mr. A. J. Drexel, is also understood to be included in the object of the resolution.

The following bills on third reading were disposed of as stated:

To authorize the counties, cities, towns, to enter into contracts with railroad companies, whereby said corporations may relocate, change or elevate their roads, and for that purpose to sell and convey their lands, was defeated, yeas 26, nays 27.

To authorize the counties, cities, towns or townships of this State, respectively, to enter into contracts with railroad companies, whose roads enter their limits, whereby said companies may relocate, change or elevate their roads, and for the purpose of the said authorities shall have power to do all such acts as may be necessary and proper to carry out such contracts, and any such contracts made by any railroad company or companies as aforesaid, with said authorities or either of them, are hereby fully ratified and confirmed, was defeated, yeas 26, nays 27.

To authorize the Presidents, judges and associate judges of the several courts of common pleas, of judges, came up and passed finally, was also killed on final passage. Yeas 7, nays 19.

The following Notaries Public were confirmed:

Abraham G. Schwenk, Schwenksville, Montgomery county; James L. Sloan, Mercer county; Fanst, Watsontown, Northumberland county; William Harding, Fremont, Snyder county; Daniel W. Cramer, Pittsburgh.

In the House, the Apportionment bill was reported, with amendments, and after passing through a first time was made the special order for Tuesday afternoon next. It will not pass the amendments, it is said, but as made it is much less favorable to the Democrats than the Senate bill was. It gives Philadelphia four members and the Democratic caucus refused to yield that one vote, although some half dozen would gladly have voted aye, if permitted to do so. The responsibility, therefore, rests upon each one of the twelve Democratic Senators, any one of whom could have broken the dead-lock.

In the House, at the opening of the morning session, Mr. Heiges, of York, offered a resolution indorsing the President's veto of the Finance bill. *The House refused to receive it*, thus showing conclusively that the President's veto has but few friends here.

The views of the Conference Committee on Senate bill 44, An act for the incorporation and regulation of corporations, was concurred in by the House, and the bill goes to the Governor.

Mr. Wolfe moved to reconsider the vote by which House bill No. 182, relative to the limitation of actions, was defeated. This was the bill to open the courts to a lawsuit for four thousand acres of coal land in Luzerne county. He stated that it was the design that amendments should be offered to the bill.

The vote was reconsidered, by 55 yeas to 30 nays, and the bill came up.

Mr. Mitchell offered an amendment to the effect that the act shall not affect the rights of any bona fide purchaser for value since the passage of the act of 1856.

Mr. Little opposed the amendment, holding that it did not extract from the bill one bit of its venom or render it any less mischievous.

Mr. Brockway had read a letter from James E. Gowan, attorney of the Reading Railroad, as an evidence of the fact that there were two sides to the question. (The letter was in opposition to the passage of the bill.)

Mr. Allen (Dauphin) stated that he desired no notoriety in this matter, but in order to define his position, would make a short statement. He announced in substance that he had been approached on the floor of the House by a gentleman who intimated that the vote (coming as it did among the first called by the clerk), was worth securities valued at "six figures," or, in ciphers, $100,000. Nothing less, $5,000. It was a question with him (Mr. Allen) what the vote of some older member might command, when he, who was one of the younger ones, was rated at that figure.

Mr. Webb also asserted that a gentleman had been endeavoring to induce parties to buy stock. The members knew this.

Mr. Cross indorsed the remarks of Mr. Webb and viewed the bill with suspicion.

Mr. Mitchell said the statement of the gentleman from Dauphin (Mr. Allen) was news to him, and that he supported the bill entirely on its merits, at the same time deprecating any such improper influence.

The amendment (as to its legal effects and justice), was further discussed by Messrs. Wolfe, Heiges, Wilcox and others. The bill, as amended, was agreed to on second reading—yeas 56, nays 49; nays, 49. The distribution of stock seems to have been better attended to than previous to the first action on the bill, and the healthy indications afforded by its defeat have all ripened out.

The amendments made by the Senate to House bill No. 95, declaring appeals from the judgment of aldermen to be invalid, unless appellant subscribes that such appeal is not for purposes of delay, were considered. The House refused to concur in the Senate amendments, believing the appellant fee and necessity of filing the appeal in the office of the Prothonotary within twenty days from the entry on the docket sufficient. A Committee of Conference was appointed.

The amendments of the Senate to House bill No. 3, establishing separate Orphans' Courts in counties over 150,000 population were also considered. The bill originally passed the House, it gave Philadelphia one President Judge and two Associates. The Senate amended by reducing the number to two Judges. The House refused to concur, and a Conference Committee was appointed.

The House concurred in the amendments made by the Senate to the Tax bill, and that bill now goes to the Governor. It is understood to be generally satisfactory to those interested.

The afternoon session the House took up Senate bill No. 69, relative to the incorporation of cities, and passed it through first reading. It has been carefully considered by the proper committee, and may be still further amended by the House.

The House refused, at first, to adopt the report of the Conference Committee on the Legislative Expense bill, and passed the bill reducing under the delusion that it was a special session, and they had sufficient influence with the members to secure its defeat. They afterwards discovered their mistake, and the vote was reconsidered, the bill being sent back to the committee. As the Senate part of the committee has been discharged, the House part of it can do nothing but report the bill as it came originally from the hands of the Conference Committee. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 24, 1874.

The friends of high judicial salaries were not content with their defeat of yesterday, but went to work last night and this morning to change the decided sentiment of the Senate, as shown in yesterday's votes. Almost immediately after the meeting of the Senate this forenoon made a motion to reconsider the vote by which the Judicial Salary bill passed second reading. This was agreed to, yeas 14, nays 12. Mr. Wallace and Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, were absent, and several Senators sat still in their seats, refusing to vote. The vote by which the first section was agreed to was reconsidered by a similar vote—yeas 14, nays 12—and Mr. Rutan moved an amendment giving the Philadelphia Judges $7,000, the Allegheny Judges $6,000, and the Judges of the State $4,500. Mr. Rutan moved a division of the question, and demanded a separate vote, first, on the proposition to give each Philadelphia Judge $7,000 and was prepared to follow up the report of yesterday's Committee of Conference by defeating the proposition had yesterday been made by Mr. McClure and voted down, and the only way to get another vote upon it was to move a reconsideration of the vote rejecting that proposition. Mr. McClure, who, by the clerk), was worth securities valued at "six figures," or, in ciphers, $100,000. Nothing less, $5,000. It was a question with him (Mr. Allen) what the vote of some older member might command, when he, who was one of the younger ones, was rated at that figure.

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The amendment (as to its legal effects and justice), was further discussed by Messrs. Wolfe, Heiges, Wilcox and others. The bill, as amended, was agreed to on second reading—yeas as follows: yeas, 49; nays, 40. The distribution of stock seems to have been better attended to than previous to the first action on the bill, and the healthy indications afforded by its defeat have all ripened out.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1874.

A LEADING manufacturer, in speaking of the probable effect of the President's veto on the iron trade, thinks it will not alter materially the condition of affairs. Trade will be dull as long as the railroad corporations are in so uncertain a condition as they are at present, and consumers will only purchase what they require for immediate use.

CONGRESSMAN BECK, of Kentucky, and one of the most bitter Democrats to be found in the party, who has carefully examined the workings of the Internal Revenue Bureau, declares that Commissioner DOUGLASS is a conscientious and economical officer. There can be no doubt that the same result would be reached as to most of the bureaus of the government, if the opposition would investigate them with a candid purpose.

THE import entries of foreign merchandise at New York amounted, last week, to $7,228,874, as compared with $10,340,763 for the corresponding week last year. The exports of domestic produce were $4,309,253, as against $6,947,560 last year, and the exports of gold and silver $423,236, as against $773,017 last year. The total value of foreign goods landed in New York last month was forty-two and a half millions, or less than one million below the figures for the same month last year.

PREPARATIONS for the ensuing political campaign are beginning to be made in New Jersey, which will this year elect a Governor, seven members of Congress, and a Legislature, upon which will devolve the choice of a successor to United States Senator STOCKTON. The Republican party of that State is thoroughly united, and confidently expects to not only carry the Executive but to retain control of all branches of the Legislative and all other departments of the State government.

THE Canadian delegation of manufacturers, to whose appointment we recently made some brief reference in these columns, are pressing the question of Protection before the Dominion Parliament, with great earnestness. The principal disadvantage under which business labors across the border, is the large import trade from Great Britain. "Blood is thicker than water," but it has not the specific gravity of gold coin; and the colonists are protesting against the excessive commercial attentions paid to them by the parent country right lustily.

THE estimate for New York city expenses during the early Mayoralty of Mayor HAVEMEYER, in 1848, was $2,741,450. The State tax at the same time was $124,000, the common schools cost $288,000, and the police $479,000. General city expenditures were then $1,249,150. The city had in 1849 a population of about 500,000, or half its present size, but the expenses have risen from $2,741,450 to over $30,000,000, while the taxes reach the enormous rate of $3.40 per cent., and the debt grows steadily at the average rate of ten million dollars a year. Such are some of the beauties of Democratic and "Reform" administration.

THE manufacturers of Albany are making a push for the Japanese market. A whole cargo of stoves is now on its way to that country to fill an order. To equip the people of the United States with stoves has created and maintained a business of vast magnitude; and if the swarming millions of Japan are to supply themselves from our American market, the stove business of the United States has hardly more than reached its infancy. Pittsburgh stoves have a reputation equal to any in the country, nor ought our Pittsburgh stove manufacturers to stand second to any in enterprise. What is there to hinder them from sharing the Japanese market in this important matter?

THE National Abolition reunion, or general gathering of old line abolitionists, which is to take place in Chicago on the ninth of next June, promises to be an impressive and memorable affair. One of the main objects of the promoters of the reunion is, to gather such fragments of that most interesting period of our history, as are now possessed by the surviving actors in the many scenes which at one time enlisted on one side or another the sympathy of the whole land, and which must else before long be forever lost by the passing away of its possessors. *There has been no* general reunion of anti-slavery co-workers; and the proposed meeting of these old liberty warriors can hardly fail to have an effect for good upon the times. Delegates from all the Northern States will be present, and among the participants will be the venerable WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, an anti-slavery author, now eighty-two years of age, and FREDERICK BROWN, a brother of JOHN BROWN.

A CHICAGO inventor has in his brain a novel plan of railway travel. He does not describe it fully, deeming it inexpedient to do so, but from what he says it may be inferred that his system contemplates an elevated shaft or rail, from which light passenger cars are to be suspended, and over (or rather under) which they are to be propelled at the rate of several hundred miles an hour. As the cars will be swung in air, sufficiently high to avoid all obstructions, no danger would be apprehended from accidents at crossings, collisions with country wagons, running over cattle, and the like. There would be no delays from land slides, heavy snows, and other causes which now impede railway travel. In other words, the passengers would speed along, pass many generations of ethnic members of the primitive church burned their dead without a suspicion that they thus frustrated the hope of their revivification. The hope rested on the promise of sovereign omnipotence, and was, therefore, sure, whatever became of the vile body in the meantime.

THE Troy iron manufacturers claim to stand at the head of the world, so far as amount of work performed, and excellence of manufacture, are concerned. A couple of weeks ago the Bessemer Steel Works succeeded in the manufacture of ten steel ingots in one week than had been accomplished in any similar institution in the world, and last week, according to the *Times* of that city, the men employed rolling steel rails at the Rensselaer mill were given permission to do their best, and succeeded, like the steel works, in beating the world. They worked nine furnaces, each furnace making six heats and turning out thirty-seven rails per day. All the furnaces manufacturing three hundred and thirty-three rails every twelve hours, the product for the week was 3,663 rails, weighing 1,012 tons and 1,169 pounds gross. Every rail was first quality, and no rail was lost by reason of imperfections. The average working time of the day turns was eight hours seventeen minutes; average working time of the night turns, eight hours thirty-nine minutes. Average working time each day, sixteen hours fifty-six minutes. Total working time, ninety-three hours eight minutes. This was a creditable performance; but we are of opinion that Pittsburgh is fully adequate to the task of equalling, if not of excelling, it, whenever she chooses to undertake to do so; while, without detracting in the least from the credit due to the manufacturers of Troy for the sterling character of their products, those of the Smoky City yield to none as respects all the essentials of excellence. The artist OPIE once informed an inquirer that he mixed his colors with brains. The manufacturers of Pittsburgh put conscience into their work.

A BURNING QUESTION.

According to the London correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, Mrs. ROSE M. CRAWSHAY, "wife of the famous Iron King of Wales, ROBERT CRAWSHAY, Esq.," must bear the credit or discredit of having been the first person in England to agitate the subject of cremation. The lady, it seems, is a thorough going fanatic in her religious opinions, and is animated by a zeal quite apostolic in their propagation. In her propagandist labors she possesses one advantage which apostles have not generally possessed; she is immensely rich, at least the wealth of her husband is estimated at about three millions sterling. It was this audacious lady, Mrs. CRAWSHAY, who began the agitation in favor of "euthanasia"—by which she meant an easy and voluntary deposition of the burdens of life by those who found them no longer tolerable or useful to themselves or others. This extraordinary suggestion or rather recommendation, speedily found an advocate in Professor F. W. NEWMAN, whose article on the subject made a marked sensation at its appearance. The name reminds us of an inapposite anecdote which we have never seen in print, but which we believe to be true, on the testimony of a gentleman who had it from the Professor's own mouth. Soon after the publication of a book, in which he had renounced nearly all the religious doctrines of his youth, MR. F. W. NEWMAN, learning that his brother, the now celebrated Father NEWMAN, was in London, called to see him at the hotel where he was lodging. Having sent in his card and been refused, the Professor felt sure that some mistake had been made by the servant. The brothers had not seen each other for a good while, and the Professor doubted not that his own feelings were fully shared by his devout relative. He, therefore, went to his brother's appartment with the certainty of being affectionately received. But he did not know either the vigor or the nature of a devotee's faith. Instead of the fraternal greeting he had expected, he was treated as the church in old times directed certain reprobates to be treated. Father JOHN, after casting upon his brother a single glance of horrified surprise, covered his own eyes with one hand and waved him off with the other, repeating all the time with ever growing emphasis the words—Satan avaunt! Satan avaunt!—an adjuration which the Professor made haste to comply with.

But we have wandered from the subject of cremation. If Mrs. ROSE CRAWSHAY found a vigorous champion of euthanasia in Professor NEWMAN, she found a still more effective advocate of her next suggestion in Sir HENRY THOMPSON, the celebrated physician. Having heard the great lady unfold her views of the reform at a London dinner table, he brought his professional and scientific knowledge to bear upon the subject, in the famous article which appeared some six months ago in the *Contemporary Review*. This paper, we are told, has been translated into all the languages of the continent, and it seems to have produced as profound an impression everywhere else as in Great Britain. In England there can be no doubt that the question has taken hold of the public mind in the most surprising manner, and whatever is to be the issue, the subject will be thoroughly discussed in all its relations and bearings. It is, in fact, there what the Germans call a *brennende Frage*, the burning question of the time.

Though for the sake of historical completeness we have mentioned *euthanasia* in connection with cremation, it would be grossly unjust to think of the two things as in any way associated, whether in fact or principle. One of them is repugnant to the enlightened moral sense, antagonistic to Christian teaching, and palpably open to horrible abuses in practice; while the other is not fairly subject to any of these objections. So much one may say without the least purpose or thought of recommending the introduction of cremation. We mention the subject and take note of the progress of the debate, merely as honest chroniclers of the passing time.

One feature of the discussion which might almost be called amusing is the sort of anxiety with which the organs of "advanced opinions" (so styled) endeavor to show that the churches are bound to uphold inhumation as necessary, and to oppose cremation as fatal to the hope of a resurrection. These "thinkers" have been so long accustomed to represent the doctrine of a literal resurrection of the physical body as one of the absurdities scorned by themselves alone and fortified by all beyond, that some of them are quite seriously perturbed in the complacency of their intellectual superiority by the acceptance which cremation meets with among the orthodox. The Bishop of Manchester has not only written, but preached in favor of the new mode, and great numbers of the clergy of the Established church have, in different ways, declared themselves of the same judgment. Leading divines among the Dissenters also are exerting their influence in the same direction. Even the English Israelites, so far as they are represented by their official organ, favor cremation. This, we suppose, is more remarkable, as in the Old Testament, if we rightly remember, the only example recorded of burning the human remains is the burning of the bodies of Saul and his sons, and even in that case, the bones were interred and re-exhumed for solemn entombment.

The chief reason assigned by the Jewish organ alluded to for preferring cremation is the prevention of premature interment. By the English advocates of the so-called reform sanitary considerations are most earnestly urged. Both parties, it appears, attach very great weight and cogency in so ancient and crowded a country as England, "England," they remark, "is fast becoming a huge cemetery." As to the cities and towns, the opinion is very prevalent that the health of the population is gravely injured and imperilled by the graveyards.

To this country, so new and extensive, such arguments apply with hardly any force, and will not be wholly disregarded by those who look into the future. The repose of the dead, however, is as uncertain in this country as in any other. What JACOB GRIMM said of Germany in 1849 is equally true of the United States, "there is hardly one of our cities in which paved streets do not run over ancient church yards." Anglo-Saxons for some reason or other cannot respect the bones of departed generations, and old graves are violated without scruple or decency when the comfort or property of the living suggests their desecration. Who has not been shocked at the sight, and who interposed to prevent the outrage? Beloved remains consumed by purifying fire are forever rescued from the possibility of such profanation, an argument of no insignificant force in favor of the change. On the other hand, the alleged connection between inhumation and Christian doctrine will probably seem of less importance the more properly it is considered. During many generations ethnic members of the primitive church burned their dead without a suspicion that they thus frustrated the hope of their revivification. The hope rested on the promise of sovereign omnipotence, and was, therefore, sure, whatever became of the vile body in the meantime.

THE MENNONITE MIGRATION.

Misunderstanding exists in some quarters with reference to the bill in favor of the Russian Mennonites, which has lately engaged the attention of the United States Senate. The bill does not, we believe, guaranty to the immigrants immunity from any of the duties or obligations which would devolve upon them, if they should become citizens of the republic, but merely sets aside a large tract of the public land for their use to be reserved for two years. If within that period the land should not be occupied by them, it is to revert to the United States. It appears that the Russian subjects whom the act is designed to favor have not yet fully made up their minds to change their abodes. They entertain strong conscientious convictions against the lawfulness of war under any circumstances, and they cannot reconcile the performance of military duty with their cherished religious feelings. Rather than submit to the requirements of the Russian law which at present refuses to recognize such scruples as valid grounds of exemption, the Mennonites propose to emigrate. It is, however, by no means certain that they would be permitted to leave the country *en masse*, and it is also not certain that the position of these good people is so desperate as to make emigration the only mode of escape from the service which seems to them so sinful and odious.

The history of the Russian Mennonites is well adapted to enlist in their behalf the sympathy of the world in this enlightened and liberal age. Persecuted in the Netherlands and in Western Germany, their fathers found a refuge in Prussia under the rule of the great FREDERIC, who gladly received them. There they prospered, and by their skill and industry as farmers, they increased the wealth of the kingdom of their royal benefactor. After some years they were tempted to exchange Prussia for Southern Russia, for the fertile plains of the lower Don and Volga by the advantages offered them by the Empress CATHARINE II. Among these privileges were the undisturbed use of their mother tongue, immunity from taxation for a certain period, and for their sons exemption from military duty. From time to time these colonies continued to receive accessions from different parts of Germany; the farms of the colonists became the admiration of tourists and the envy of surrounding Russians, and by the introduction of silk-culture the colonists conferred a signal benefit upon Russia. At length, influenced by the dream of Panslavism, the Russians began to put forth efforts for the purpose of forcing their German fellow-subjects, and the latter were annoyed in various ways. In fact, it is now many years since the particular privileges and rights promised them as an inducement to enter the country ceased to be fully respected, and increasing discontent with their situation has prevailed among them. But the growing rigor with which the law of military service has been enforced of late years seems to have been thought peculiarly oppressive, and more than any other cause has led the Mennonites to make inquiries with a view to emigration.

This latter annoyance is, however, not a grievance with which less scrupulous religionists or the world in general can be expected to sympathize very deeply. Even to most Americans it cannot but seem right enough that every citizen or subject fit for the service should be required to take his part in the defense of the State against aggressive enemies. We can also perceive that even an absolute Czar must find serious difficulty in recognizing conscientious objections as ground for the limitation of a universal law. There is, however, no doubt that, apart from this military difficulty, the Mennonites have legitimate causes of complaint against their Russian rulers and fellow-subjects. Their grievances have been set forth with much fulness and in various forms within the last two or three years, but the most powerful and effective presentation of them is contained in the fact that, on account of them, from thirty to sixty thousand people, a large majority of them well-to-do and settled in an agreeable climate, prosperous themselves willing to abandon their homes and cross thousands of miles of land and sea. But, as already intimated, their position may not be so desperate after all. The Russian government has undoubtedly become lately quite sensitive to the opinion of the West, and it is at least not impossible that even yet the Czar may adopt measures to reconcile so numerous, useful and important a body of subjects to their allegiance and country. Whether the Mennonites should be forcibly prevented from leaving Russia, or induced cheerfully to remain, as they desire to do, by the removal of their grievances, the special legislation in their behalf favored by some Senators perhaps might not appear with grace or advantage in the statute book.

In many respects such a colony as the one contemplated in the law would be a valuable addition to the population of the country. The Mennonite settlements on the Volga have been often described with admiration by travelers of various nationalities, and Muscovite official reports have always borne witness to the patient industry, love of order and religious character of the colonists. But Pennsylvanians are familiar by experience with the sect. So early as 1683 many families of Mennonites yielding to an invitation of WILLIAM PENN settled in Eastern Pennsylvania, and in 1698 more families of them came and took up their abodes in and near Germantown. The most extensive Mennonite immigration, however, took place in 1709, "when the Spanish war of succession raged on the Rhine and in the Netherlands and drove them from their homes." They settled down all over the Eastern counties of the State where they speedily converted the wilderness into productive farms and smiling gardens. They are now divided into several sects, but they all retain the essential peculiarities of character, habit and doctrine they brought with them from Europe. In his forcible speech in the Senate the other day, Mr. Senator CAMERON, a most competent witness we need not say, dwelt with equal justice and eloquence upon the agricultural and manifold other virtues of the Pennsylvania Mennonites.

The Little Massachusetts Demon.

The record of the boy murderer Pomeroy is extraordinary. He is fifteen years of age. His last victim, whom he stabbed and horribly mutilated and then threw into a marsh, was four years of age. His previous victims were many. One was a son of Mr. Payne, of Chelsea, who was, about Christmas, 1871, taken by Pomeroy to Powder Horn Hill, stripped naked, tied to a tree, beaten with a rod, and then left helpless. Tracey Hayden, another boy, was, on February 21, 1872, stripped, tied up, and beaten with a board and rope, by which some of his teeth were knocked out, the bridge of his nose broken, and other more serious injuries inflicted. Johnny Baldwin was taken to Powder Horn Hill soon after July 4, 1872, stripped, gagged, tied to a beam, beaten, and then taken to a salt water creek and washed. Robert Gould, in September of the same year, was taken from South Boston to the vicinity of the Hartford and Erie Railroad, stripped, tied to a telegraph pole, whipped and cut with knife in the head. Henry Austin, in August of the same year, was, at South Boston, stripped, beaten and cut in the back and groin with a knife. Georgie Welch, about the same time, was enticed into the cabin of a yacht at South Boston, stripped and punctured with pins and needles in all the parts of his body, and left insensible and bleeding. Joseph Kennedy was about the same time taken to a place on the Old Colony road, in South Boston, and mutilated in about the same manner that the Gould boy had been. These boys were all of tender age, from seven to eleven years old. The Kennedy case was reported to the Reform School in 1872, but in that institution his conduct was so good he was pardoned out February 6 last, on the petition of his counsel, who is a dressmaker. He was committed without bail at Boston, on Saturday, on the charge of having murdered the boy Horace N. Miller.

A Singular Suit for Damages.

The Washington *Star* of Saturday says: Messrs. Carrington & Carrington have entered suit for WILLIAM H. WILSON against Rev. Daniel Draper, pastor of Union Bethel church, for damages laid at $5,000 for expelling him from the membership of the church. The plaintiff is a well-known colored man, and the action was brought only until the commission of his grievance he had not been suspected to have been guilty of any immorality or dereliction of duty, or conduct unbecoming a professing Christian; and that for five years he had been a member of the Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the rules and regulations of which he has observed, and by his walk he obtained the good opinion of the membership. He charges that the defendant, with the intention to injure his good name and bring him into public scandal and disgrace, and to deprive him of the communion and fellowship of the members and the enjoyment of the ordinances, as well as the temporal and spiritual advantages, defendant, on the 19th of April, before the congregation and people, without authority of law, and contrary to the rules and regulations of the church, declared that plaintiff was no longer a member thereof, and then and there expelled him. And by by reason of said grievance caused the plaintiff to be suspected of committing some immorality, crime or misdemeanor, and of violating the rules and regulations, and for this reason members and citizens have refused to have any transaction or acquaintance with him to his damage—$5,000.

The Home of Lindley Murray.

In answer to a correspondent who desired to know whether it was true that Lindley Murray, the distinguished grammarian was born in Lebanon county, Pa., the *Lebanon Courier* says: We believe he was born in Hanover, in what was then Lancaster county, in the year 1745. He was taken to Philadelphia, while young, and received his primary education at the Friends', or Quaker academy. He was placed in a countinghouse, after having learned some knowledge of mercantile affairs, but receiving a chastisement, like Young America, now-a-days, he ran off, and turned up in a seminary in Burlington, New Jersey. From that he went to New York, where he continued his classical studies and entered a lawyer's office, and was a fellow-student with John Jay. At the age of twenty-one he was admitted to the bar. When the Revolutionary war broke out his health was bad (he may have been affected with consumption, which took hold of so many people during the late rebellion when a draft was imminent), and he retired to the country, where he remained for a time, but coming to Philadelphia as engaged in the mercantile business and accumulated a fortune by the end of the war. His health continued bad, he went to England for the benefit of change of air, and at Holdgate where he occupied himself with literary pursuits. He was the author of several works, but none of them gave him so much fame as his grammar. He died at Holdgate in 1826.

THERE are more mysteries in New York trade than are dreamt of in the philosophy of most men. A short time since a gentleman of that city, coming to Harrisburg, wished to open his safe to take some papers from it. His bookkeeper was absent, and he himself had forgotten the combination." In this dilemma he went to the manufacturers of the safe for assistance. They told him they were powerless to aid him, but that if he would take an oath of secresy they would do what they could. What that oath was cannot, of course, be revealed. Shortly after a man came to his office, and, entering his private room where the safe was, locked the door. In about fifteen minutes he emerged, received a sum of money and the safe was open. The man was a professional burglar. Now, any inquiring mind the question presents itself, how did this man know the "combination," and how was the safe manufacturer able to communicate with him.

THE total yield of the ice crop in Maine for the present season, including old ice on hand, cannot be reckoned short of 1,500,000 tons, and it may possibly reach 2,000,000 tons. Of this amount probably 300,000 have been sold or bargained for at $3 per ton, or a total of nearly $1,000,000. This price is a remunerative one, netting a large profit to the owners. If the whole of the crop is sold at the same figure, the total amount realized from Maine's ice product will be between $4,000,000 and $5,000,000. To transport the product to a market will require a fleet of not less than 5,000 vessels. To carry away the product of the Kennebec will require over 3,000 vessels, or an average of nearly fifteen vessels a day from the opening of the river to navigation to its close.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 28, 1874.

SENATE.

The following bills passed finally:

Authorizing the appointment of shorthand clerks to courts.

To provide for the removal of county seats.

The act to provide for a commission for the purpose of providing uniformity of school books, was under discussion all the forenoon. At the afternoon session it was amended by Mr. Wallace and passed second reading.

Senator Rutan's bill authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission of seven to propose amendments to the Constitution, was advocated by Messrs. Rutan and Wallace, and passed by a vote of 22 yeas to 3 nays.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer read in place a bill to regulate the grading, paving and curbing of streets in boroughs.

The act to divide the Eighth Normal School district, passed finally.

The act authorizing Philadelphia to increase her debt, in accordance with section 8, article 9, of the Constitution, was defeated by a vote of 50 to 36. This is one of the subjects upon which a caucus was held by the Democrats, and the vote was consequently by a strict party vote.

At the afternoon session, the bill fixing the fees of Notaries Public was killed.

The following bills passed finally:

An act fixing and defining the individual liability of banks.

A supplement to an act to facilitate the barring of entails.

An act for the annexation of boroughs and townships, or parts thereof.

An act for the imprisonment of persons whose sentences shall be commuted by the Governor.

An act defining the duties of Directors of the Poor.

An act relative to the issuing of free passes, or passes at a discount.

An act providing for the payment of canvassers in Philadelphia appointed in accordance with the Schedule of the new Constitution.

Among the prominent Pittsburghers here, are General A. L. Pearson and Mr. Forsyth, Oil Inspector.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 29, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Fitch moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill establishing a State Board of Health was defeated, and had it laid over.

The act providing for the submission of civil cases by agreement of the parties to a referee, was passed finally.

Senators Anderson and Graham called up and consolidated the act repealing all laws requiring school boards to maintain separate schools for the exclusive education of colored children, and the act allowing children over six years of age, without regard to color, to attend the public schools, and passed the same to second reading.

Mr. Anderson presented the remonstrance of citizens of Braddock borough against the repeal of the prohibitory law for that borough; also the petition of citizens of Braddock for the repeal of said law.

Mr. Graham presented the remonstrance of the School Directors of the borough of Darrenton, Allegheny county, against the repeal of any prohibitory liquor law.

Reports from committees were presented, as follows:

Mr. Cunham, with amendments, An act supplementary to the several acts relating to the State Treasurer and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

Mr. Wallace, as committed, An act authorizing the formation of partnership associations, in which the capital subscribed shall alone be responsible for the debts of the association, except under certain circumstances.

HOUSE.

Mr. Cross reported favorably the bill appropriating two thousand dollars to improve the Delaware river.

Mr. Fraley called up the Legislative Apportionment bill, and the House settled itself for an all-day job. All amendments were voted down by a strict party vote of 38 to 51. The House did not reach a vote on the bill until four o'clock, when it was passed to second reading by the same vote. Messrs. Stranahan and Little opposed, and Messrs. McCormick, Mitchell and Wolfe favored it.

Mr. Bates called up the act punishing the fraudulent issue of oil storage receipts, and passed the same to second reading.

Mr. Ramey called up the bill appropriating five thousand dollars to the Indiana Normal School.

Mr. Josephs, For the care of insane poor.

Mr. Porter, Fixing license fees of auctioneers.

Mr. Piper, Relating to the drawing of juries—which passed finally.

Mr. Butterfield, Relative to the duties of the District Attorney of Erie—which passed finally.

Mr. Campbell, Relative to local lien laws for Butler county. Passed to second reading.

The House worked till six o'clock P. M.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 29, 1874.

The House met at three o'clock, this afternoon, only sixty members present. It at first refused to take up bills on first and second reading, and proceeded to consider bills on third reading; but, after acting on some such bills, it found itself unable to pass any bill to which there was opposition, and it agreed then to take up bills on first reading, and spent the rest of the session on the calendar of bills of that class. The following bills passed finally:

An Act to provide for the transfer of the business and records of certain courts abolished by the Constitution, and repealing the acts creating the same.

An Act providing for the publication of the minutes of the Board of War and Navy Board of the State of Pennsylvania, and the original papers in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, heretofore unpublished.

Joint resolution instructing Senators and requesting the Representatives of this Commonwealth in Congress to favor a system of free banking.

Senate bill, A supplement to an act relating to writs ad quo warranto, approved March 18, 1836, authorizing writs of quo warranto in certain cases.

Senate bill, A supplement to an act for the better protection of the wages of mechanics, miners, laborers and others, approved April 8, A. D. 1872.

An Act relating to the assessment of damages arising from the opening of roads and highways and the construction of bridges.

An Act to repeal an act, entitled "An Act to prevent bands of gypsies, &c.," approved May 6, 1863, and a supplement to said act, entitled "An Act amending the proviso in section five of said act," approved April 10, 1872.

A supplement to an act, entitled "An act to establish the Montrose High School of Pennsylvania, approved June 5, 1873," authorizing the trustees to expend certain funds.

Senate bill authorizing the Governor to fill vacancies (by appointment) in the office of Alderman during the term of four years, but I am not so sure that public liberty would be the gainer.

The Senate met at 7½ o'clock, and devoted its attention to bills on first reading, disposing of all the bills on the calendar that were asked for, and putting the new county bill through second reading.

Mr. Barclay called attention to an unintentional error in the journal of Friday, which occurred in the engrossment of the Legislative Apportionment bill, and which rendered void all the subsequent proceedings on that bill. On the motion to increase the number of the Judges of the Courts from $4,000 to $4,500, the vote as read out at the time, and as recorded in the journal, was 15 to 15, after being recorded in the negative. It was subsequently ascertained that Mr. Cutler had not voted, through misunderstanding, in the affirmative, and the subsequent proceedings were based on the belief that the motion was lost. Without such correction of the error voided all that was afterwards done. The correction having been made, the bill was committed to the Finance Committee, and when it comes back will be on second reading.

Special.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 28, 1874.

The School Book bill occupied the attention of the Senate to-day, during nearly the entire day. Speeches were made for it by Messrs. Rutan, Graham, Wallace, Lowry, Humphreys, Chalfant, Cuttler and Wallace, and against it by Messrs. Fitch, Ermentrout, Playford, Bechtel and Wartel. The decisive speech, among all these, was that of Mr. Wallace. The other speeches were generally very good, but that of Mr. Wallace came in so conclusively at the close of the discussion at the morning session, that all felt it was decisive of the fate of the bill and rendered it unnecessary for Mr. Bechtel moved to postpone it indefinitely, and the vote on this motion was 9 to 22, Messrs. White and Yerkes being absent. Had they been present, the vote would have been 11 to 24, showing more than three-fifths of the Senate in favor of the bill. A subsequent motion of Mr. Fitch to amend the bill by including apparatus and plans for school houses, got 9 votes to 23 against it.

Mr. Wallace proposed an amendment requiring that two of the five Commissioners should be Democrats, that no sectarian book should be chosen by the Commission, and that no book should be selected except by the unanimous vote of the Commission, and Mr. Rutan, having the bill in charge, accepted the amendment. The adoption of this amendment rendered it necessary that the bill should go over, to be printed, before it can be voted on, as can be taken. The votes had to-day indicate that it will pass by a vote of two to one.

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I shall abide by the decision of the courts cheerfully, and I have suggested the case in order to bring it before the Supreme Court at the June term."

THEIR ATTORNEYS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—The attorneys representing both parties in the Arkansas dispute for the Governorship, have called on the Attorney-General, and have submitted written arguments in support of their respective claims. The decision of the President will be made after a thorough investigation by Professor Spencer F. Baird, as requested. Attorney General Williams will prepare an opinion for the Executive.

VERY LATEST FROM THE FIELD.

LITTLE ROCK, April 29.—Everything has been rather quiet to-day. A considerable number of arrests were made on both sides. The Brooks forces were drilled this evening inside the State House grounds. Col. J. M. Clayton, with about one hundred colored men from Jefferson county, who reinforced Brooks a few days ago, left with his command for home this morning. Col. W. W. Reynolds, of Benton county, has been made Brigadier General of Governor Baxter and given command of the Northwest. Business is almost flat. Notwithstanding the quietude of affairs, a collision may occur any time. The United States troops occupy the old positions at City Hall and the United States Court room. Baxter expected to-day one piece of artillery from below, with two hundred men from Hempstead county.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Acheen.

BATTLE ON THE 11TH INST.—DUTCH VICTORY.

ACHEEN, April 25.—In the battle of the 11th, 8,000 natives made a general attack on the Dutch positions. They attempted to carry the works at Kraton by assault, and were driven back with great slaughter, after eight hours' fighting. All the Dutch forces, with the exception of a garrison of 2,500 men in Kraton, will return to Java on the 26th inst.

Germany.

BERLIN, April 28.—The Prussian Minister of Finance reports a surplus of 21,000,000 thalers for 1873.

Marine News.

TENNESSEE COLORED CONVENTION.

NASHVILLE, April 29.—The Colored State Convention convened in this city yesterday, only seventeen counties being represented. Edward Shaw, of Shelby, was elected permanent President; and F. Yardly, Wm. Summers and C. N. Moon, Vice Presidents; Samuel Lowery and W. H. Longfellow, Secretaries. During the organization, several able speeches were made in favor of equal rights. Without taking any definite action, the convention adjourned until nine o'clock this morning.

The convention reassembled this morning. Three propositions were very voluminous, and the resolutions very voluminous, taking decided grounds in favor of equal rights and of the supplementary Civil Rights bill. Resolutions were adopted,

Demanding the common enjoyment with whites of the advantages of public schools;

Signalizing the omission of the Republican party to pass the Civil Rights bill as a baseless surrender of the rights of humanity to the insidious foe of the colored race, and characterizing the party as a party demagogue who seeks to betray the cause;

Deprecating the opposition of Senator Brownlow to the Civil Rights bill, as those portions of the Civil Rights bill, as a departure from the principles of humanity and justice;

Thanking General Butler for his management of the Civil Rights bill in the House of Representatives.

Appointing a committee to prepare a plan for the organization to Chairman Sumner, as a mark of gratitude and respect for his earnest and humane labors in behalf of the colored race;

Ordering that a copy of the resolutions be sent to Horace Maynard, Representative at Large from Tennessee, with a request that he call together the delegation from the State and urge their co-operation in the passage of the Civil Rights bill.

Providing funds to carry to the United States Supreme Court the case of David Gallowich, who is now in State prison for marrying a white woman.

The convention adjourned *sine die*.

ARKANSAS.

Nothing Startling--Baxter Makes Another Appeal to the President--His Forces Cheerful of Success.

THE PRESIDENT APPEALED TO AGAIN.

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 28.—President Grant has received a dispatch from Governor Baxter, of Arkansas, stating that an armed insurrection exists in the State, and asking for aid to protect the State against domestic violence. Governor Baxter says he telegraphed on April 19th but understands that the President has not acted on the requisition. Gov. Brooks has already made a similar request, and now has two lawyers in Washington looking after his interests. The $50,000, improving the mouth of the Mississippi river, $130,000; Mobile harbor, $75,000; White river, above Jacksonport, $50,000; Osage river, $25,000; Mississippi river, $25,000; Des Moines Rapids canal, $200,000; Ohio river, $150,000; improvement of the Great Kanawha, $25,000; Upper Monongahela, $25,000; Tennessee river, above Chattanooga, $25,000, and below Chattanooga, including Muscle Shoals, $100,000; Fox and Wisconsin rivers, $30,000; Red river, $10,000.

The bill authorizes about forty surveys to be made—fifteen of them in the South. The entire amount of appropriations is $4,000,000, or $1,000,000 less than the amount of the bill reported to the House last year.

Fish and Fisheries—Their National Importance—Decadence in Numbers—Government Measures for the Propagation of Food-Fishes—The Report of Prof. Baird—Efforts to Stock the Western Rivers—Transportation of Young Shad and Salmon—The Rivers Stocked.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 28, 1874.

The importance of fisheries, whether in their commercial or economic aspect, is admitted. Among the earliest and most important of the New World after its discovery were the visits of the fishermen of England, France and Holland to the Banks of Newfoundland. The value of the fisheries on the coasts of the United States cannot be overestimated. They furnish a large supply of excellent food to our people, give employment to a large number of persons, stimulate ship building, produce activity and prosperity in commerce, and, in addition, a considerable pecuniary return to those engaged in them.

The value of the shad and other food-fishes of the entire coast may be appreciated when it is known that the Fish Inspector of Washington during the season of 1873 inspected a half million of them, and in this market alone, represented one and one-half million pounds of shad. Mr. Atkins, of Virginia, who similarly inspected in four months of 1873 aggregated the enormous amount of five million pounds. The wanton destruction of food fishes, perhaps under the impression that the supply was inexhaustible, of late years has been attended with a perceptible and somewhat alarming diminution in numbers. This was particularly the case in the tidal and navigable waters of the United States, and therefore properly within their jurisdiction. The New England States, directly interested in this important interest, appealed to Congress for legislation on the subject. That body, in February, 1871, passed a joint resolution for the protection and propagation of the food-fishes of the United States, providing for the appointment, by the President, from among the civil officers or employees of the government, of a person of scientific and practical acquaintance with the fisheries of the coast, to be Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries. The duties laid down were to inquire as to whether any and what diminution in the number of the food-fishes of the coast and the lakes had taken place. The necessary powers were also conferred.

The person selected for this important work was Professor Spencer F. Baird, of Pennsylvania. Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, a scientific gentleman of ability, a gentleman and his written works, particularly on various branches of natural history, insured an advance a valuable report. This has now been completed and printed by the government. The report makes over 900 pages, and besides covering the whole subject of the inquiry, contains a number of very valuable scientific papers, noticeably a list of Sea Weeds of the South coast of New England, by W. G. Farlow, M. D.; a report upon the invertebrate animals of Vineyard Sound and adjacent waters, by A. E. Verrill; a catalogue of the Fishes of the East Coast of North America, by Theodore Gill, and List of Fishes collected at Woods Hole, by S. F. Baird. There are also appended illustrations of marine fishing tackle, 287 figures of marine invertebrate, and several maps.

During his operations from 1871-73, Professor Baird took plaster casts and drawings of every variety of food-fish which came under his notice. This valuable collection is now being placed in readiness, and will be contributed to the National Museum under the Smithsonian Institution.

It seems rather paradoxical, yet such is the fact, that the artificial method of multiplying fish is much more successful than the natural

A prominent feature in the operations of the Fish Commission, from the beginning, has been the efforts to transfer shad and other food-fishes to the Western waters as well as to the rivers along the Atlantic seaboard, but it was not until the establishment of a station at Washington that it became possible to transfer young fish, in any number, to tributaries of the Mississippi and the Ohio. From this point, as well as from the Delaware, Susquehanna, Hudson and the Connecticut, large numbers were shipped to various localities.

If the appropriation for the coming year is granted in time, the Commissioners will begin at such a point on the coast as the lateness of the season will warrant, and hatch out such numbers of shad, striped bass and fresh-water herring as the time and circumstances will permit; and while introducing a certain percentage into their native waters, transfer the remainder to such points in the Mississippi valley, the region of the great lakes and on the Pacific coast, as the appropriation will warrant.

Of the success of multiplying anadromous fish there can be no question. Through the efforts of the Fish Commissioners of the New England States, shad have been increased enormously, so that the traditions of their abundance a century ago are already more than realized anew. The experiments in the multiplication of salmon have been equally successful.

The United States Fish Commissioner feels convinced after the season of investigation that shad can be made as abundant in the waters of the Mississippi valley as they are in any rivers of the Atlantic slope. This probability is so great as, in his opinion, to warrant the experiment. They have been introduced, by private enterprise, into several streams in Alabama, where they have already become an important element in the food-supply of the country. The distance which they must traverse, including the headwaters of the Ohio and of the Mississippi is by no means excessive.

It is a fact known to students of natural history that a species of shad as excellent as our own ascends the Yangtse Kiang, the great river of China, to a distance of 3,000 miles from the sea, requiring three months of travel, and constitutes a most important element in the food-supply of that over populated country.

The United States Commissioner commenting upon the feasibility of stocking the Western rivers, thinks that the importance of a national aid in all such measures as those of introducing useful food-fishes into the fresh waters of the

IMPORTANT GENERAL BILLS.

The Establishing of New Counties, and the Removal of County Seats.

We give below the text of two general laws now relating to the creation of new counties, and the other to the removal of county seats—both having been reported from the Committee on Constitutional Reform, and now pending in the Senate:

NEW COUNTIES.

An act for the establishing of new counties in this Commonwealth.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted* etc., That whenever one thousand of the taxable inhabitants residing in a territory as hereinafter designated and described, from one or from contiguous counties of this commonwealth, shall present their petition or petitions to the Governor of the Commonwealth, the Secretary and Auditor General thereof, setting forth that the interests and convenience of the people of said territory will be promoted by erecting such territory into a county, and designating a name for said county, said petition or petitions also setting forth that the same will not reduce any county within which such territory or any part thereof is taken to less than four hundred square miles, or less than twenty thousand inhabitants, and that the territory so proposed to be erected into a new county contains an area of not less than four hundred square miles, nor less than twenty thousand inhabitants, nor does any line thereof pass within ten miles of the county seat of any county proposed to be divided by the erection of said new county, and it shall be the duty of the Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, to appoint three disinterested persons as Commissioners, whose duty it shall be, after having taken an oath faithfully to perform the duties pertaining to their appointment with impartiality and fidelity, to view the territory described in said petition or petitions, and the lines thereof, and inquire into the matter and allegations set forth in said petition or petitions, and report to said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth as thereon, as they shall find said facts to be.

SEC. 2. If the Commissioners aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall report to said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, that they find the facts and allegations set forth in said petition or petitions to be correct and true, it shall be the duty of said Governor forthwith to call an election of the qualified voters of said territory, entitled to vote for representatives, to be held on a day fixed by said Governor, which shall be published for three successive weeks in all the newspapers published in the territory so proposed to be erected into a new county, if any be published there, if not, in the newspapers of the adjoining counties, not exceeding three in number, at which time said qualified voters shall decide by ballot whether said territory shall be erected into a county. The ballots of said election shall be headed "new county," and shall read "for new county" and "against the new county," and said election shall be held at the places for holding the general elections in the several election districts in said territory, and by the election officers entitled to hold said general elections, and shall be conducted under the laws of this Commonwealth for holding the general elections. The return judges of said election shall meet at such time and place as the Governor shall designate in the proclamation calling said election, and make out duplicates of said election returns, one of which shall be immediately forwarded to said Governor of the Commonwealth by said judges, under their hands and seals, and the other shall be retained by such persons as shall be designated by the return judges at their meeting to be deposited as hereinafter directed.

SEC. 3. Upon receipt of said returns of the aforesaid election, if it shall appear that a majority of all the votes cast at such an election are in favor of erecting said territory into a county, it shall be the duty of said Governor forthwith to issue proclamation declaring the result of said election, and stating said territory to be erected into and constitute a county in this Commonwealth, and from and after the first day of January, A. D. 1875, said territory shall be and constitute a new county of this Commonwealth, with all the rights and privileges of the adjoining county from which the largest number of inhabitants is taken: *Provided*, That any contest concerning said election shall be had in the Court of Common Pleas of the largest adjoining county not affected.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, immediately after issuing said proclamation, to appoint three disinterested Commissioners to locate a seat of justice in said new county, whose duty it shall be, after having given notice of the time and place where they will meet in said new county, by publishing the same in all the newspapers published in said new county, if any be published, and if not, in newspapers of adjoining counties not exceeding three in number, to meet in said new county, and after being sworn or affirmed to perform the duties pertaining to their appointment with impartiality and fidelity, to proceed to locate and establish the seat therefor. Ex a site for court house and public buildings connected therewith, and secure a title for the same therefor, having regard for the convenience and interests of the inhabitants of said county in making said location, and shall fix the place for holding courts therein until the court house is erected.

SEC. 5. The said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, shall also appoint three disinterested competent persons as Commissioners of said new county, to act until the first general election after the erection of said county, and until their successors are duly qualified, whose duty it shall be to cause plans and specifications to be made of such public buildings as they or a majority of them shall deem necessary and suitable for the use of said county, and to make contracts for the erection thereof, and have the same completed at as early a day as practicable.

SEC. 6. At the first general election after the erection of said new county, all the county officers provided by the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth, shall be elected and qualified according to law, and such county officers as are required to give bail for the faithful performance of the duties of their office, shall give the same bail or like offices as those officers of the county from which it has been taken the least territory to make the new county, and the terms of the officers of said new county shall begin and end, and the duties thereof be the same as is now provided by law for county officers: *Provided*, That the returns of said election shall be made to the commissioners as provided for in section five, the said commissioners being empowered with full authority and power to count said returns, make certificates of said election officers, and issue writs, and do all other acts and things necessary for the holding of said election for the proper organization of said county.

SEC. 7. As soon as the several county officers of any county erected under the provisions of this act shall have been appointed or elected, if the courts held in the several counties from which said county is made, shall be held in said new county, and the terms of said courts shall begin on the first Mondays of the months of January, April, August and November, and otherwise provided for, and said courts shall be styled and known as the court of the judicial district from which the greater number of inhabitants were taken to make said county, and the judges of said district shall hold the courts therein. *Provided*, That if the said county contains a population of forty thousand or more, it shall constitute a separate judicial district and there shall be elected a president judge to preside over the same, who shall, on the said first Monday of January, organize the several courts for the duration of the terms, and all other matters necessary in the premises.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the Prothonotaries of the several counties from which the territory is taken to make out and transmit to certify to the Prothonotary of said new county, it causes and suits pending and undetermined, where the defendants reside in said new county, and the expense of said certificates shall be paid out of the treasury of said new county, and all recognizances, judgments in said several counties against defendants residing in said new county, may be so certified, but all proceedings had thereon shall be in said new county, and the lien of such judgments shall not be affected by the making of said new county.

SEC. 9. All proceedings upon mortgages upon land situated in said new county, shall be had in said new county, and the liens of all mortgages upon land situated in said new county shall not be effected by the creation of said new county, and all deeds and conveyances of land situated in said new county recorded in any of the counties from which territory is taken for said new county, shall be held to be sufficiently recorded, and the record here to have the same force and effect as if exercise in said new county, but that the duty of the Recorder of said new county to record all such deeds or certified copies thereof upon the request of any person, and the payment of the legal fees therefor.

SEC. 10. The necessary costs for advertising, ection, and the compensation of the Commissioners to be appointed under the provisions of this act, shall be paid by the State treasurer, on the warrant of the Governor, and the same shall be collected from said new county for from the new county as soon as the same shall be organized. The compensation of said Commissioners shall be five dollars each for every day actually employed in public duties. SEC. 11. If a new county shall be erected under the provisions of this act, the duplicate returns hereinbefore mentioned shall be received by the Recorder's office of said new county, and if the expense of erecting said new county shall be paid out of the treasury of said county.

SEC. 12. If any election district shall be divided by the lines of any proposed new county, leaving the place of holding elections on the opposite side of the line so established, in said county, the voters residing in such parts of election districts shall vote at said election at the polls of any adjoining district most convenient for them.

SEC. 13. All new counties erected under the provisions of this act, shall be attached to and become a part of the Congressional and Senatorial districts from which they are formed, unless otherwise provided for by the Legislature.

SEC. 14. Up to the time and including the day the first meeting of said courts, the power thereby and hereinbefore given to the courts of the old county or counties, and of the officers thereof, over said new county district, shall continue without abridgement, except as otherwise herein provided, but no longer.

REMOVAL OF COUNTY SEATS.

n act to provide for the removal of county seats, sale of the old county buildings, and the erection of new ones therefor.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That the county at of any county erected into a new county shall be changed by the action of the Court of Quarter Sessions of such county, and a vote to that effect be taken in the manner herein provided.

SECTION 2. On application in writing of at least one-fourth of the qualified electors, presented by the vote of the last preceding Gubernatorial election, of any such county, made to the Court of Quarter Sessions thereof, setting forth their desire for a vote upon the question of a change of such county seat, and accompanied with a bond in due form with securities to be approved by said court, conditioned to pay at least one-half of the cost purchasing the ground and erecting a court use and jail at the locality to which the unty seat is proposed to be removed, at least ual in value to those at the existing county at, which said value the said court is hereby thorized to fix, the said Court of Quarter sions shall order and direct an election to held, to determine the question of change of unty seat, which said election shall be held ther on the day of the municipal election, or erwise provided for, and said courts shall ke the proper proclamation for the holding said election from which the greater number of inhabitants were taken to make said county, and the judges of said district shall hold the courts therein. *Provided*, That if the said county contains a population of forty thousand or more, it shall constitute a separate judicial district and there shall be elected a president judge to preside over the same, who hall, on the said first Monday of January, organize the several courts for the duration of the terms, and all other matters necessary in the premises.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Prothonotaries of the several counties from which the territory is taken to make out and transmit to certify to the Prothonotary of said new county, it causes and suits pending and undetermined, where the defendants reside in said new county, and the expense of said certificates shall be paid out of the treasury of said new county, and all recognizances, judgments in said several counties against defendants residing in said new county may be so certified, but all proceedings had thereon shall be in said new unty, and the lien of such judgments shall ot be affected by the making of said new unty.

SEC. 4. All proceedings upon mortgages upon land situated in said new county, shall be had in said new county, and the liens of all mortgages upon land situated in said new county shall not be effected by the creation of said new county, and all deeds and conveyances of land situated in said new county recorded in any of the counties from which territory is taken for said new county, shall be held to be sufficiently recorded, and the record here to have the same force and effect as if exercise in said new county, but that the duty of the Recorder of said new county to record all such deeds or certified copies thereof upon the request of any person, and the payment of the legal fees therefor.

SEC. 5. When the necessary costs for advertising, ection, and the compensation of the Commissioners to be appointed under the provisions of this act, shall be paid by the State treasurer, on the warrant of the Governor, and the same shall be collected from said new county as soon as the same shall be organized. The compensation of said Commissioners shall be five dollars each for every day actually employed in public duties. SEC. 6. If a new county shall be erected under the provisions of this act, the duplicate returns hereinbefore mentioned shall be received by the Recorder's office of said new county, and if the expense of erecting said new county shall be paid out of the treasury of said county.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, immediately after issuing said proclamation, to appoint three disinterested Commissioners to locate a seat of justice in said new county, whose duty it shall be, after having given notice of the time and place where they will meet in said new county, by publishing the same in all the newspapers published in said new county, if any be published, and if not, in newspapers of adjoining counties not exceeding three in number, to meet in said new county, and after being sworn or affirmed to perform the duties pertaining to their appointment with impartiality and fidelity, to proceed to locate and establish the seat therefor. Ex a site for court house and public buildings connected therewith, and secure a title for the same therefor, having regard for the convenience and interests of the inhabitants of said county in making said location, and shall fix the place for holding courts until the court house is erected.

SEC. 8. The said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, shall also appoint three disinterested competent persons as Commissioners of said new county, to act until the first general election after the erection of said county, and until their successors are duly qualified, whose duty it shall be to cause plans and specifications to be made of such public buildings as they or a majority of them shall deem necessary and suitable for the use of said county, and to make contracts for the erection thereof, and have the same completed at as early a day as practicable.

SEC. 9. At the first general election after the erection of said new county, all the county officers provided by the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth, shall be elected and qualified according to law, and such county officers as are required to give bail for the faithful performance of the duties of their office, shall give the same bail or like offices as those officers of the county from which it has been taken the least territory to make the new county, and the terms of the officers of said new county shall begin and end, and the duties thereof be the same as is now provided by law for county officers. *Provided*, That the returns of said election shall be made to the commissioners as provided for in section five, the said commissioners being empowered with full authority and power to count said returns, make certificates of said election officers, and issue writs, and do all other acts and things necessary for the holding of said election for the proper organization of said county.

SEC. 10. If any election district shall be divided by the lines of any proposed new county, leaving the place of holding elections on the opposite side of the line so established in said county, the voters residing in such parts of election districts shall vote at said election at the polls of any adjoining district most convenient for them.

SEC. 11. All new counties erected under the provisions of this act, shall be attached to and become a part of the Congressional and Senatorial districts from which they are formed, unless otherwise provided for by the Legislature.

SEC. 12. Up to the time and including the day the first meeting of said courts, the power thereby and hereinbefore given to the courts of the old county or counties, and of the officers thereof, over said new county district, shall continue without abridgement, except as otherwise herein provided, but no longer.

SEC. 13. The said Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, shall also appoint three disinterested competent persons as Commissioners of said new county, to act until the first general election after the erection of said county, and until their successors are duly qualified, whose duty it shall be to cause plans and specifications to be made of such public buildings as they or a majority of them shall deem necessary and suitable for the use of said county, and to make contracts for the erection thereof, and have the same completed at as early a day as practicable.

SEC. 14. At the first general election after the erection of said new county, all the county officers provided by the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth, shall be elected and qualified according to law, and such county officers as are required to give bail for the faithful performance of the duties of their office, shall give the same bail or like offices as those officers of the county from which it has been taken the least territory to make the new county, and the terms of the officers of said new county shall begin and end, and the duties thereof be the same as is now provided by law for county officers. *Provided*, That the returns of said election shall be made to the commissioners as provided for in section five, the said commissioners being empowered with full authority and power to count said returns, make certificates of said election officers, and issue writs, and do all other acts and things necessary for the holding of said election for the proper organization of said county.

SEC. 15. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SEC. 16. This act shall take effect immediately.

SEC. 17. That the Governor, Secretary and Auditor General of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them, shall appoint three disinterested competent persons as Commissioners of said new county, to act until the first general election after the erection of said county, and until their successors are duly qualified, whose duty it shall be to cause plans and specifications to be made of such public buildings as they or a majority of them shall deem necessary and suitable for the use of said county, and to make contracts for the erection thereof, and have the same completed at as early a day as practicable.

SEC. 18. At the first general election after the erection of said new county, all the county officers provided by the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth, shall be elected and qualified according to law, and such county officers as are required to give bail for the faithful performance of the duties of their office, shall give the same bail or like offices as those officers of the county from which it has been taken the least territory to make the new county, and the terms of the officers of said new county shall begin and end, and the duties thereof be the same as is now provided by law for county officers. *Provided*, That the returns of said election shall be made to the commissioners as provided for in section five, the said commissioners being empowered with full authority and power to count said returns, make certificates of said election officers, and issue writs, and do all other acts and things necessary for the holding of said election for the proper organization of said county.

SEC. 19. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SEC. 20. This act shall take effect immediately.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to the Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent Office to citizens of the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia for the week ending April 24, 1874. Furnished for the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., Counselors-at-law and solicitors for foreign and American patents, No. 513 Seventh street, Washington, D. C.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Balanced Slide-valve—John A. Touhill, Pittston, assignor to himself, R. J. Wisner and Theodore Strong, same place.

Flour Bolt—John Reynolds Gast, Mifflinburg. Application filed February 23, 1874.

Grain Cleaning Machine—Samuel Burger, York. Application filed February 3, 1874.

Pipe Joint—George H. Hyde, Hyde Park. Application filed January 7, 1874.

Planter and Rest for Carts—William C. Jardine, of Bedford, Pa., assignor to himself and William H. Graham and H. A. Sprangler, same place. Application filed March 14, 1874.

Rotary Tool for Dental Engines—Francis Hickman, Reading. Application filed September 24, 1873.

Rotary Engine, &c.—William A. Graham, Carlisle. Application filed September 26, 1873.

OHIO.

Mould for Casting Wheels—James Everingham, Cleveland, Application filed November 5, 1873.

Reverse-vat—William H. Opitts, Elyria, Ohio. Application filed January 8, 1874.

Sewing Machine—Joseph Hamilton, Application filed September 15, 1873.

Car-Coupling—Jacob D. Gardner, Nashport, Application filed September 15, 1873.

Stopper or Bung—Columbus Coblentz, Springfield. Application filed March 14, 1874.

Firing-Machine—Joseph C. McGee, and William C. Margedant, Hamilton, Application filed March 5, 1874.

Heel-Gage for Boots and Shoes—Alfred Orebaugh, Marathon, Application filed November 17, 1873.

Telegraph-Sounder—Henry C. Royer, Cleveland, Application filed September 26, 1873.

Velocipede—Friedrich C. Scharff, Chillicothe Application filed December 29, 1873.

Pile-Kindler—Robert Wilson and Christian Feuchter, Ironton. Application filed December 26, 1873.

Cartridge-Capping Implement—Joseph L. Raub, Nevada, assignor to Wilbur F. Parker, Meriden, Conn. Application filed January 26, 1874.

Planing-Machine—William C. Margedant, Hamilton, assignor to Bentel, Margedant & Co., same place. Application filed March 5, 1874.

Board-Measure—Edward T. Lufkin, Cleveland. Application filed December 29, 1873.

Boot-Stretcher—John C. Compton and Henry Y. Hartz, Cleveland. Application filed January 27, 1874.

Horse Hay-Rake—Charles Edgar, Dayton. Application filed February 16, 1874.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Stoves—Thomas Murphy, Parkersburg. Application filed June 26, 1873.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Four Men Run Over and Killed—Another Seriously Injured.

A frightful accident occurred at eleven o'clock Wednesday morning between Ebensburg and Cresson by which four men were instantly killed and a fifth seriously injured. The engineer of the Pacific express on the Central road, which arrives here at 11.55, when the train was rounding the curve east of Cresson noticed five men walking single file on the track just a few yards ahead of the locomotive. Before the engineer could reverse the air-brakes the unfortunate men were swooped from the track by the cow-catcher, the train was soon stopped, and the conductor, Mr. D. Kearney, together with his brakemen, went back to investigate the accident. When they arrived at the party was found living, and lying in the snow on the ground. It was ascertained that of the party there were two brothers named Irwin, two brothers named Fardee, and a man named Mann, Bowden, all belonging to Indiana county. One of the Irwins was caught with the cow-catcher near the ankles. The men were engaged in the lumber business and were returning home. It appears that the party left the freight train at Carrolltown to the track of the approaching express, and they were struck as stated.

Since the above was written the full names of the unfortunate men have been received in the following dispatch:

EBENSBURG, May 1.—Edward Fardee, Amos Fardee, Jacob Bowden and Thomas Irwin killed to-day at Cresson, and Wm. Irwin fatally injured by the Pacific express going East. They had just stepped on the track from a freight train going in an opposite direction.

A SUICIDE.

Death of a Young Man From an Overdose of Laudanum.

Wednesday afternoon a sensation was created on Smithfield street by the report that a young man had committed suicide in Bennett's saloon. Dr. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, was hastily called in to the placed named, where he found a young man, evidently from a cause unknown at the time. The unfortunate young man expired about half past four o'clock and words was sent, soon after to the coroner to hold an inquest. The body was removed by the official named and an inquest held at his late residence on Saturday.

John Sweeny was the name of the deceased. He was twenty-five years of age and unmarried. He went into the saloon shortly before eleven o'clock, and, taking a part of a glass of ale, remarked that it was probably the last he would drink there. At twelve o'clock he asked for a glass of ale going again to Philadelphia, and Sweeny, with his hand to his forehead as if in pain, answered, yes. He then borrowed ten cents and left. In less than two hours he returned and sat down in a chair in the corner, and went to what was thought to be a drunken sleep. His head dropped forward, and noticing his unusual position, and hearing his hard breathing, Mr. Bennett seated him on a chest and put his head back. Some time after his deathly appearance caused the doctor to be called, and he was found dead as stated.

At the inquest it was shown by a witness that Sweeny had exhibited a bottle of laudanum in Levy's auction store, near Bennett's, and had said he was taking it for neuralgia. From the testimony of the physician and other parties the jury rendered a verdict of death from laudanite. Deceased resided at the corner of Wylie and Crawford street, near by where he had purchased the laudanum. He was formerly employed at the Red Front grocery store, opposite the Custom House.

City Mortality.

Dr. W. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, reports a total of sixty deaths in this city during the week ending April 25. Of these 33 were males, 27 females; 58 were white and 2 colored. The causes of death were as follows: Railroad accident, 4; anæmia, 1; cerebro-spinal pleurisy, 1; congestion of brain, 1; acute bronchitis, 2; chronic bronchitis, 1; capillary bronchitis, 2; Bright's disease, 1; cancer of œsophagus, 1; cerebro spinal meningitis, 1; consumption, 11; convulsions, 2; enteritis, 2; typhoid fever, 2; scarlet fever, 1; necro enteritis, 1; heart, disease not specified, 1; heart, valvular, 2; inanition, 3; marasmus, 2; old age, 2; measles, 4; metro-peritonitis, 2; old age, 1; general paralysis, 2; premature birth, 2; pneumonitis, 8; spinal disease, 1. Total, 60.

There were: Under 1 year, 17; from 1 to 2 years, 4; from 2 to 5 years, 4; from 10 to 15 years, 2; from 15 to 20 years, 1; from 20 to 30 years, 8; from 30 to 40 years, 5; from 40 to 50 years, 6; from 50 to 60 years, 3; from 60 to 70 years, 5; from 70 to 80 years, 3. Total, 60.

ALLEGHENY MORTALITY.

Thirty-nine deaths occurred in Allegheny the past week from the following causes: Dropsy, 1; bronchial pneumonia, 1; scarletina, 5; still born, 3; pneteotnitis, 1; suicide, 1; typhoid fever, 1; convulsions, 1; hemorrhage of the kidneys, 1; pulmonary consumption, 1; unknown, 1; phthysic pulmonalis, 1; old age, 2; inflammation, 1; scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 1; tubercular meuting itis, 1; bronchitis, 1; congestion of brain, 1; premature birth, 1.

The ages were as follows: Under one year, 5; from one to five, 6; from five to ten, 2; from ten to twenty, 1; from twenty to thirty, 4; from forty to fifty, 3; from fifty to sixty, 2; from sixty to seventy, 1; from seventy to eighty, 1; from eighty to ninety, 1. Males, 17; females, 17. All white.

Some time since, a large family of old residents of Hardin county, Kentucky, received intelligence that by the death of relatives in England, there was a fortune of $12,500,000 in that country which rightfully belonged to them. They have not yet come into possession of this vast fortune, but there seems to be some confidence in their prospect of eventually getting it. One of the heirs recently bought a horse at Big Spring, Ky., in payment of which he surrendered one-fourth of his claim to the twelve and a-half millions. The man who thus got a claim to one-fourth of the fortune has since exchanged it for a house and lot at Big Spring, and the ex-owner of the house and lot is now the owner of the fourth as fast as it may come. One account says he is "frozen with anxiety" to get it, but this is probably an exaggeration.

The dreary winter blockade on top of Pike's Peak is over, and one of the men who has been doing duty on that elevated weather post has come down to tell his experience. At times the thermometer was over thirty degrees below zero, the wind blowing so strongly that exposure to it was dangerous, and the snow driving in blinding clouds. The Signal Service men, in their substantial stone house, with plenty of wood and provisions, were secure from hunger and frost, and came out of their seclusion in good health.

Four silver spoons, one silver fork, six pairs of cotton stockings, and a peck of butternuts were recently found in a rat's nest in Maine. By what queer process of ratiocination did the rodent arrive at the conclusion that he needed those articles?

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 29, 1874.

The money market of Pittsburgh evinces greater activity than it did yesterday, borrowers are more numerous and persistent than usual and rates have perceptibly hardened.

The banks are "holding their heads" to hear from the Comptroller who usually sends his compliments around about this season of the year. It is likely the call for the bank reports will be made for the 24th of April or the 8th of May. When that has happened the National banks will be disposed to extend their discount lines somewhat.

—To an inquiry as to the amount of the stock of the Allegheny Valley Railroad and the portion owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, we would answer that the capital is reported at $2,256,400 (vide *Chronicle* page 424), and the Pennsylvania Railroad in their report of securities on hand list their Valley stock, estimated at par, $2,075,000.

—The stock market shows considerable activity and a sharp advance in prices.

We give a comparative table of the opening prices of yesterday and those at noon to-day:

SUMMARY.	29th.	29th
Par value of bonds.....	$29,053,300 00	
Par value of stocks.....	44,341,240 00	
Total.....	$73,594,440 00	
Cost as per general account.....	$52,692,419 09	
Western Union Telegraph.....	72¾	70⅞
Pacific Mail.....	43¾	40¾
Michigan Southern.....	96⅝	97⅛
New York Central.....	98¾	99¼
Erie.....	31½	31¾
Northwest.....	46¾	47⅜
Wabash.....	48	42¾
Col., Chic. & Ind. Central.....	20¾	20¾
Rock Island.....	99½	100¾
Ohio and Mississippi.....	27¾	27⅝
Erie.....	36¾	37⅛

The whole list showing a handsome profit to the fortunate purchaser of yesterday, with the exception of Erie, which is off.

—Foreign exchange has advanced to figures which will stimulate an export of gold. At 4.90½ for sight sterling gold can be shipped abroad at a profit, and we already hear of large shipments being made up for the Saturday steamer.

—The report of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, giving a detailed statement of stocks and bonds of other companies and a list of leases and guarantees, furnishes some interesting information. The total cost to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company on operations of all leased roads in 1873 is shown in the following statement: On leased lines and guarantees both east and west of Pittsburgh (not including the united companies of New Jersey) the result was as follows:

Net earnings.....	$8,758,231
Rental and interest.....	9,409,505
Surplus earnings.....	1,822,442
Deficient earnings.....	2,441,185
Loss to Pa. R. R. Co.....	1,132,026

The New Jersey lines showed a loss to the Pennsylvania Road of $685,800, but it is indicated that 1873 they will show but little if any loss in working them, the larger expenditures made to lessen the cost of moving and handling freights upon them being now nearly completed.

The following lines west of this city show a surplus of earnings over rental:

	Surplus.
Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne and Chicago	$4,004,355 10
New Castle and Beaver Valley.....	52,078 94
Lawrence Railroad.....	254 37
Erie and Pittsburgh.....	103,772 24
Cleveland and Pittsburgh.....	459,659 59
Indianapolis and St. Louis.....	56,042 29
St. L. V. and T. H.....	4,805 64

The following roads show a deficit:

	Deficit.
Jeffersonville Mad. & Ind.....	9,057 72
Indianapolis & Vincennes.....	143,862 99
St. Louis, Alton & Terre H.....	141,267 00
Little Miami Railroad.....	348,752 17
Columbus, Chicago & Indiana Cent'l.	1,140,159 33
Chartiers Railroad.....	16,033 38
	4,805 64
Deduct surplus as above.....	$1,980,717 09
Net deficit on above lines.....	1,581,472 62
	399,244 29

A full account of every stock and bond held by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a part of its assets is given, and a note to the report says that the securities of these various companies, whose traffic contributes to the profit of the main line, now pay to the company in the form of dividends and interest exceeding four per cent. per annum upon their cost, and it is expected that future developments of their lines will still further increase these results.

As the detailed report is very lengthy, we give only a

SUMMARY.	1873.	1873
Passengers carried.....	4,299,393	5,379,686
Passenger mileage.....	144,758,902	177,448,862
Freight (tons) moved.....	3,402,009	9,036,794
Freight (tons) moved, including Coal.....	3,925,358	4,527,251
Freight (tons) moved, including Fuel & mat's..	4,019,966	787,599
Passenger earnings.....	$ 3,641,171	4,320,071
Freight.....	12,932,657	19,608,355
Other receipts.....	687,018	877,781
Total gross earnings.....	17,260,812	24,805,000
Operating expenses.....	12,302,581	16,046,769
Net earnings.....	5,047,344	9,445,704
Dividends (8 per cent. 1873, 6 per cent. 1874).....	3,075,945	5,918,140
FINANCIAL CONDITION.		
Capital stock.....	$ 63,493,137	$ 68,144,475
Funded debt.....	17,559,564	37,639,000
State lien.....	6,092,538	5,401,670
Mortgages and ground rents.....	102,509	104,500
Bills payable.....		3,476,000
Acceptances.....	5,573,323	2,140,853
Acc'ts, pay rolls, &c.		11,595,781
Securities U. S., &c.		4,223,501
Contingent fund.....	1,000,000	2,000,000
Profit and loss.....	998,355	6,847,564
Total liabilities.....	$ 65,060,503	$140,725,657
Construction (R. to Pittsburgh).....	14,087,741	19,610,224
Equipment.....	5,575,733	5,377,753
Equipment.....	6,182,446	19,333,714
Real estate and telegraph.....	4,271,507	6,583,614
Monon. & Del. extension.....	2,475,437	1,688,518
Construction, equipment, &c.....	$ 32,392,866	$ 48,571,808
Stocks and bonds.....	20,655,753	50,597,413
Securities Un. N.J. Co.	4,322,225	
Fuel and materials.....	2,397,382	4,764,207
Bills and accounts.....	5,024,453	25,979,097
Agents' balances.....	804,182	2,005,892
Treasurer's balances.....	845,741	2,312,586
Total property and assets.....	$ 65,060,503	$140,725,657

—The following table shows the prices of gold, government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

April 29, 1874.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold.....	112⅞	113⅛	113⅛	113	113¼	113⅛
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	122		122		122	
5-20's, 1865.....	118⅝		118⅝		118⅝	
5-20's, 1864.....	120⅜		120⅜		120⅜	
5-20's, 1865, reg.....	120⅜		120⅜		120⅜	
5-20's, 1865, new.....	120		120		120	
5-20's, 1867.....	120⅜		120⅜		120⅜	
5-20's, 1868.....	120⅜		120⅜		120⅜	
10-40's, reg.....	115		115		115	
10-40's, coupons.....	115⅛		115⅛		115⅛	
Currency 6's.....	119½		119½		119½	
New 5 per cents.....						
Western Union Tel.	75⅝	75⅝	75⅝	74¾	74¾	75⅛
Panama.....				108½		
Quicksilver.....						
Pacific Mail.....	46	46⅛	46⅛	46⅜	45⅝	45⅞
Wells-Fargo Express		96				96
Merchants Union Express.....	78	78	78	78		78
American Express		62		62		62
United States.....		67		67		67
New York Central	99¼	99¼	99¼	98¾		98¾
Erie.....	31¾	31¾	31¾	31¾		31¾
Michigan Central	78	79	78	77		77
Michigan Southern	78	77⅞	77⅞	77⅝	76⅞	76⅞
Illinois Central.....		101		101		
Cleveland & Pitts'gh		87¾		87¾		
Chicago & North'w'n	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾	47⅜	46⅞
Do. preferred.....						69½
Rock Island.....	100½	100½	100	100	100	100
St. Paul.....	37¾	39½	38¾	38¾		37¾
Do. preferred.....		58				57
Wabash.....	42¾	43¼	42¾	41	42¾	41⅜
Hannibal & St. Jos.	30	31				30
Do. pref. red.....						36
Fort Wayne.....		98½		97		
Ohio & Mississippi		27¾		27¾	27½	26⅝
Union Pacific.....	35⅝	36¼	35¾	36¼	36¼	34⅝
Chicago & Alton.....		92		92		
C., C. & I. C.....	22	22⅜	22⅜	22		22
Boston, Hart'd & Erie		1¾		1¾		1¾
Harlem.....		127¼				126⅞
Terre Haute.....		10		83		
Tenn. State bonds...				83		
Do. new.....		31		34¼		
South Carolina, April				16		
Do.				16		
Missouri 6's.....				94¼		

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY, April 29, 1874.

Trade opened prosperously again on Wednesday, and merchants were almost every where busy in receiving and filling orders. Many merchants report the spring trade fully up to that of former years, with exceptions in one or two classes of goods, which have been affected by particular causes. The wholesale liquor dealers, and merchants engaged especially in supplies to the glass manufacturers, have for especial reasons a light business. But the vast majority of trades-people express themselves, as well pleased with the progress of the spring trade so far, and with the prospects for the future.

The special features of business to-day were not important. We note some slight alterations in bacon and provisions, which we give below. Notwithstanding the heavy demand in this line the advance on hams has not been sustained, and dealers have returned to former quotations. Butter is still quoted at 30@33c for strictly choice rolls, but dealers are found who quote as low as 25@30c. Cheese is not changed. Eggs are firm at 17@19c, notwithstanding the large receipts. The flour market is reported quite active, with an especially strong demand for spring wheat flour. No change in price has yet taken place, but some dealers predict an advance in the above-mentioned brand. Grocers are active and supplies being especially full. An advance on refined sugars is reported from New York, but no change has been made in this city.

Transactions in grain are brisk, with much the same features as heretofore. Taken as a whole, the state of trade as indicated by inquiries yesterday was very satisfactory, and presents a fair prospect of continuing so.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce by rail and river, during the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls.....	1,137	Apples, bbls.....	174
Cheese, pkgs.....	290	Corn, sacks.....	707
Wheat, sacks.....	80	Barley, sacks.....	440
Rye, sacks.....		Oats, sacks.....	1,154
Butter, pkgs.....	28	Bacon, pcs.....	1,200
Bacon, tces.....	174	Potatoes, bush.....	2,135
Hams, pkgs.....		Onions, bbls.....	83

The following table shows the receipts of the leading articles of produce received duringthe past two weeks.

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls.....	10,494	5,991	16,485
Apples, bbls.....	635	758	1,393
Cheese, bxs.....	637	489	1,126
Corn, sacks.....	2,500	2,644	5,397
Wheat, sacks.....	1,135	2,578	3,713
Barley, sacks.....	5,843	3,261	9,106
Rye, sacks.....	757	492	1,249
Oats, sacks.....	6,857	7,730	14,587
Butter, pkgs.....	244	217	461
Bacon, tces.....		2,544	2,544
Bacon, trcs.....	690	1,146	1,836

The following quotations are the rates realized on wholesale lots, unless otherwise specified. On small orders an advance is charged:

APPLES—We quote $5 50@6 00 for choice; common brands at $2 50@3 50.

ASHES—Light trade and no demand. So

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1874.

THE Lynchburg (Va.) *Republican* makes the positive announcement that ex-President JOHNSON has declared himself a candidate for Congress in the First Tennessee district. We thought that hay-seed business meant work. Now look out for thistles of discord.

A DEMOCRATIC sheet out in Ohio thinks people in this country may learn some things from the Japanese, who will not permit the public exhibition of monstrosities of any kind. But just fancy how many Bourbon papers would, in that event, be brought to untimely graves.

THE time draws near when the great International Postal Congress will assemble at Bonn, Germany, for the purpose of discussing plans for facilitating, as the opening of the spring the international transit of letters. The convention will meet on the first of October. Our government has officially accepted the invitation to be represented and participate in the proceedings; but, so far, no Commissioner to represent the United States has been appointed. Whoever shall be selected ought to be a man of enlarged views and ideas.

A NEW YORK paper considers it to be a very dark showing that of the six hundred and seventy-five inmates of the Kentucky Penitentiary, one-half are negroes. Not so dark as it may appear at first glance. We do not affirm that they convict innocent colored people in that State, but it is a matter of universal notoriety that they permit hundreds upon hundreds of persistent white offenders against the laws to roam unpunished, at large. If justice were blindfolded, in that State, the race account would most likely present a very different showing.

IT is not impossible that the terrible floods which have taken place in the Mississippi Valley this spring may, by rendering it impossible to clean and dry the inundated lands in time to put in cotton crops, compelling the planters to fall back on the cultivation of corn and other cereals, turn out to be a blessing in disguise. At least, not until the farmers of the South learn that, in order to be independent, they must first raise sufficient eatables to live on, making their cotton crops an after work, will the "good times" for which they so expectantly look, begin to arrive.

A COUPLE of the border parishes of Louisiana—Caddo and De Soto—lying upon the eastern border of Texas, want to get out of the former State into the latter, and have petitioned the Legislature of the Lone Star State to annex them, provided the consent of Louisiana and of the United States Congress to the proposed cession can be obtained. The political and social condition of affairs in Louisiana is probably by no means all that could be desired, but if the people of the disaffected region shall succeed in effecting their purpose, which they are not very likely to do, it will not be a year before they discover that they have merely exchanged the frying-pan for the fire.

THE British Board of Trade returns for the first quarter of the current year, show a still further decline in exports, while the prices paid for imported articles have considerably advanced. From the important failures which have taken place in the iron trade, it would seem that a collapse is imminent. The most significant fact in the returns is the great discrepancy in the balance of trade. The balance of imports over exports for the quarter was £30,000,000 in 1872, £22,000,000 in 1873, and it is as much as £25,000,000 in the current year, during which period we have imported a less amount of the precious metals by ten millions of dollars than in either of the two previous years.

IT is sincerely to be hoped that justification under the laws of the United States may be found by the House Committee on Elections, in their pending consideration of the question, for the expulsion of an "Elder" of the Church, the sitting delegate from Utah. He is one of the twelve "Apostles" of the "Church of the Latter Day Saints," and has four wives. Polygamy has been pronounced by a statute of the United States to be a criminal offense. Shall a man, living in constant violation of the criminal statutes of the United States, be admitted to a seat on the floor of the House of Representatives? And if a delegate cannot be excluded on these grounds, can a member be?

THE annual report of the New York Savings banks, prepared by the Superintendent of Banking for the State Legislature, has just been published. This document offers suggestive proof of the comfort, frugality and relative prosperity of the operative classes who constitute the chief, though by no means the only depositors in savings banks. Since 1857 the deposits in the savings institutions of that State have risen from forty-one millions to two hundred and eighty-five millions. This gratifying increase may be taken as an illustration that in this country, at any rate, the operative classes from whose earnings by far the greatest part of these deposits are made up, enjoy more opportunities for saving, as the wealth and productive forces of the country increase.

THE struggle for the mastery between the Cambria Iron Company and the trades unions of Johnstown is drawing rapidly to a close, and victory perches on the banners of the corporation. The men who have been on strike are asking to be re-employed, and will be put to work with the understanding that they shall not, hereafter, divide their allegiance between their employers and any trades union. There were six of these unions in that busy city, and when the members of any one of them felt so disposed, they could inaugurate a strike, thus stopping the entire works and throwing hundreds of workmen who had no grievances to complain of, out of employment, to be so kept as long as it pleased the strikers, or until the places of the latter could be filled. The Cambria Iron Company has had an eminently just arrangement with their workmen as to wages—a sliding scale governed by the market price of manufactured iron, the men profiting by each advance, and having their pay reduced proportionally by each decline. The works, it is stated, will now be started up at their full capacity, and kept running so long as orders received will justify the managers in so doing.

IT is affirmed that good mechanics in New York are becoming very scarce on account of intemperance on the one hand, and on the other the limited number of apprentices allowed by trades unions, and that only the incessant importations from Europe or from the country districts keeps up the supply; apropos of which subject, it may be observed that the need of technical schools was never more imperative than now. The average youth now-a-days, rather than apply himself to trade-learning, aims to get his living by his wits, and oftener fails than succeeds. The far-sighted policy of German educators, in establishing technical schools, of which there are now between a hundred, devoted to architecture, mining, navigation, commerce, besides schools for the textile manufactures, all built in with models, tools and laboratories, has deprived England of her supremacy. Yet we have quite as much at stake as England. Much of the "pauper labor" of the Old World is intelligent to a degree that puts our own to the blush. Hence, in some respects the common school system of our country is a failure, because it aims to train the mind only, instead of also the eye and the hand.

COMPETITIVE examinations may perhaps subserve the purpose of keeping out of the public service some incapable persons who might otherwise find their way into it, but it by no means follows that they result in the selection of the most capable candidates. An Englishman, a University graduate, and a valued contributor to a number of the leading literary reviews of that country, was recently appointed consul at a continental port. Before receiving his commission he was obliged to undergo the examination prescribed in such cases, and was rejected. He spoke and wrote the language of the country in which it was intended he should reside, but he broke down in fractions, and was sent back to study arithmetic. Another, a distinguished traveler, a man of high repute at the Royal Geographical Society, was, also, recently declared unfitted for an appointment offered to him, because he had forgotten the population of some out-of-the-way town, or the distance between the earth and the sun, or some other equally interesting and important problem. Could anything possibly be more puerile and absurd, or more fully indicate the complete inability of the system to "improve the public service," whether on that side of the Atlantic, or on this?

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO.

The Presidential veto of the Senate Financial bill has been received with howls of approbation by the money-changers of New York and New England, while it has carried gloom and despondency into millions of hearts in the South and West. He has gained the indorsement of the New York *Herald*, an encouraging pat on the shoulder from the New York *World*, a patronizing approval from the New York *Tribune*, and a condescending nod from the New York *Sun*, none of which are favorable to his administration; while most of the papers which have stood by him through thick and thin, are left to endure their mortification as best they may.

With any other man than President GRANT, a word of approval, indorsement or encouragement from such disreputable papers as the *Herald*, *Sun*, *World* and *Tribune*, which make up the New York financial *clacque*, would force an instant pause and cause the pertinent inquiry, What error have I committed that these papers should praise me? They never supported the President when he was clearly right; and their support of him, now, warrants the inference or the suspicion that he must be clearly wrong.

Politically, the President sacrifices the warm, effective and earnest support of the West and the Southwest, and he gains the plaudits of men and interests that have no political support to bring him, and would not bring it to him, if they could. He voluntarily throws away a substantial and reliable support, and gets nothing in exchange for it but——words.

For these New York and New England financiers are not politicians, in any sense, nor are they able to wield any effective political power. They can vote, and they can contribute liberally; and ordinary gratitude would doubtless lead them to vote for the President on a direct issue made; but they know little and care less about political methods of action. They are rejoiced that the President has played into their hands, and they will cheerfully pocket the gains that will flow to them from his action; but as effective gratitude is that which flows from a lively expectation of favors *to come*, their power to aid *him will* depend almost altogether upon what future favors they may be led to hope for.

Logically, and aside from all political and other incidental considerations, we cannot see that the argument is very strong on the Presidential side. A "return to specie payments" sounds well, but is, in our judgment, a mere dream. No nation as largely in debt as we are, and situated as we are, can return to specie payments without a contraction that would extinguish commerce, manufactures and all kinds of trade, and involve us in a common ruin. Every consideration of financial prudence, as we look at the case, dictates a reduction of the public debt and of the public liabilities as an essential preliminary to contraction. A continuance of the volume of currency and of the general prosperity of the country is also essential to the continued reduction of the public debt and of the burden of taxation. As the national debt contracts, and national taxation along with it, a contraction of the currency may be possible and advisable; but contraction, and that abnormal prosperity which renders a rapid reduction of the debt possible, do not go together. The President is warmly wedded to the policy of the steady reduction of the public debt; but how he can expect to carry this on, and return also to specie payments, immediately, we are unable to comprehend.

We admit that the previous legislation of Congress pledges the nation to an ultimate redemption of the national liabilities in coin; but that legislation does not fix a definite time for the redemption of greenbacks in coin, and it does not follow that *this* is the proper time for making the experiment. The time for that will come, and must come; but we can work up to it only in a gradual way, and must be content to let time bear its part in bringing about the result. We acknowledge the binding force of the obligation; but deny that there is any present necessity for enforcing it. The country must have time to redeem itself from the consequences of war. It cannot be hurried with any degree of safety.

We are sorry to have to look at these things in a way differing from that of the President; but the only way to get at *corrected conclusions is to speak out frankly and* compare notes frequently. We regret that, at such a time, the President should find himself sustained by his enemies and estranged from his friends, and can only hope, that, now that the country has got back to where this financial discussion began, some way out of the financial difficulties of the hour may be found that will be mutually satisfactory. The country is suffering from the terrible evils of doubt and uncertainty; and Congress must address itself to the task of accomplishing something definite, and at an early day. A degree of seeing anything done that is statesman-like in spirit, or based on well-considered principles. Expediency and compromise, linked with self-interest, must dictate the terms of agreement, but in heaven's name, let it be done promptly, and decisively. Delays are always dangerous, and delay, in this instance, will be as criminal as it will be dangerous.

THE TEXT-BOOK TROUBLE.

It is hardly possible, we suppose, for many teachers or others interested in the subject of education to think favorably of the proposed law for the constitution of a School Book Commission. Even if it were agreed that under certain circumstances such a Commission might be useful, the circumstances do not at present exist, the time has not yet come. Public education is really still in its infancy among us. However excellent our system may be in some respects, it accomplishes little in comparison with what it may reasonably be expected to accomplish when it shall have been fully developed and perfected. One of the defects under which the system now labors is the want of good text-books on several of the subjects of instruction. Of course we mean that the text-books alluded to are not good according to a high standard of excellence, according to the standard which has been nearly if not quite reached in some school books which might be mentioned, books in actual use. Competition holds out the fairest prospect of a supply for the want, and in order that competition may have its full effect there must be ample opportunities for bringing new books into use and submitting them to trial in the schools. A Commission of the kind proposed in the new law, if it did its duty with becoming rigor, would certainly interfere with these experiments, as any change in a text-book made by the Commission would apply to the entire State, and should be made with extreme caution. The Commission would hardly afford to entertain merely probable, and much less merely possible, reasons in favor of a change asserted to be a reform. At present, advantage can be taken of local circumstances to try experiments on a sufficiently extensive scale for the end in view, the testing of the worth of new books. The fact that the right of the directors of a district to change books has been outrageously abused, making it a question not a nuisance, is no argument against the policy. A remedy for the abuse may easily be found in the selection of directors among men of genuine character and intelligence. The people have the entire business in their own hands.

On the other hand, let the great interest be placed under the control of a central Commission, and the people may speedily find that a great nuisance has been made. As the thing now stands, aggrieved parents and guardians enjoy the privilege of grumbling in the hearing of their extortioners. They can go to each one of them in succession, and say in the plainest and most candid terms what they think of their conduct. A Commission with power to select text-books for all the free schools in the State would be a body of quite imposing dignity and grandeur. Its members would be High Mightinesses, presumably capable of taking a cheerful and generally comfortable view of their own official qualifications, and therefore not prepared to regard objections or accept reproaches with meekness or patience. The "opportunities" enjoyed by them would be considerable; the school book business even now involves great pecuniary interests, and these interests would be so much concerned in the action of the Commission that its members might readily make the position one of no trifling emolument. It might soon become difficult to approach them, with uncomplimentary suggestions.

Then, they might so naturally be functionaries not pre-eminently fit for their responsible duties. And if they should be mere party hacks, or men whose arduous labors in organizing primary meetings or in otherwise regulating the politics of their wards or townships, had utterly banished from their memories the elementary ideas and principles with which text-books have to do, the consequences might be very disagreeable and injurious to the schools of the State. These are common-place and perhaps ignoble fears, but they may not on that account be less worthy of attention. In the evolution of our political life queer things happen.

The suggestion, reduced, we believe, to the form of an addition to the law in question that the State should buy and possess the copyright of the text-books used in its schools does not strike us favorably. While the provision might guard against some evils otherwise likely to arise out of the Commission, it is open to grave objections, one of which suffices to condemn it, namely that the State has enough to do without engaging in the business of a book publisher.

THE CONVICT'S VISIT.

The escape of ROCHEFORT, PASCHAL GROUSSET and their companions from the Noumea (New Caledonia) has given rise to a vast deal of discussion and gossip in France. At first the report of their "evasion" was received with mere incredulity, the escape of any prisoner from the penal colony being held to be impossible, and the reported escape of so important and dangerous a convict as ROCHEFORT seemed an absurd invention. There can be no doubt that the plan of rescue must have been formed a long time ago, perhaps even before ROCHEFORT embarked on the long voyage, and that the framers of the plot had plenty of funds to draw upon. According to the official English report of the affair, it was a French ship which made the rescue; a ship provided and equipped by friends of seventeen convicts. It was armed with two cannons, besides small arms, and was prepared to make some fight. Provided with two flags, a French and an English one, it bore the latter at the time of the exploit. The French officials believe they have evidence to show that the vessel was fitted out in England, and that the English government could not be ignorant of its destination. Only six of the persons for whose deliverance the expedition was prepared, succeeded in getting away. If French statements are true, they had to swim a fabulous distance over reefs and among devouring crabs and sharks in order to reach the ship. In Paris it is expected that ROCHEFORT will have *un grand succes de curiosite* at New York, because, say the Parisians, whatever is audacious and exciting is certain to succeed in America. But a Frenchman who knows the United States reminds his compatriots that if Yankees should go to see and hear the man of the "Lanterne," the first would not imply either admiration or their approval; adding that, if the Prince Imperial were to follow ROCHEFORT as a lecturer in New York, he would undoubtedly enjoy a still more brilliant success.

Which is a very just remark. It is, however, a pity that there should be any occasion for the comment. It is surely time that our metropolis got rid of the provincialism which at present distinguishes it among great cities. New York hospitality is a trait for Americans to be proud of, if only the city had learned how to display its virtue without appearing ridiculous or causing annoyance. That reception of Sir LAMBTON LORRAINE, the other day, the plain, simple-minded people of the provinces, that is, the people living at a distance from Manhattan Island could not read about in the New York papers, without most painful feelings of sympathy for the respectable gentleman whom the Gothamites so strenuously honored. His sufferings must have been great, probably greater than the newspaper narratives would lead one to suppose, as even the most industrious and skillful reporter could hardly learn or describe all the tortures to which the gushing metropolitan functionaries subjected their guest.

But we have wandered from M. ROCHEFORT. Of course, the Parisians' anticipation will in some respects be realized; multitudes will go to hear him discourse and they will applaud him vociferously, even though they may not comprehend a word of his French speech. Multitudes will ask him for his autograph, some will beg for a lock of his hair, or other token whereby to remember his august and beneficent presence, and he will have not only, as foretold, "a grand success of curiosity," but such a success of admiration as fully to satisfy the escaped convict that Americans is a much less Conservative country than he had been acenstomed to fancy. All this is inevitable. The best we "provincials" can hope for is that the foul-mouthed and unprincipled demagogue may not be feted by the —— club as a great representative of French literature, or by the —— club as a martyr of liberty and republicanism. There is, we suppose, no reason to apprehend that, in both these characters, and as a Marquis besides, ROCHEFORT may be thought worthy of the freedom of the city and of those other honors which naturally follow its bestowal. Decent respect for intelligent French opinion may in this case be expected so far to counteract our prevalent sympathy with rebels and the revilers of kings and emperors.

IN A recent number of the *Borsen Courier* of Berlin, a paper whose title may be presumed to indicate its financial, solid, matter-of-fact and trustworthy character, there is an incident related of Prince BISMARCK's domestic life which, if true, is fairly interesting. Most people are used to read the newspapers have heard somewhat of the great Chancellor's daughter. The young lady, though not beautiful, is amiable, accomplished, and accustomed to the homage of the high society in which she moves. With her father she has been a great favorite ever since she grew up. When in Berlin, he has been wont to spend with her whatever leisure moments he could snatch from his laborious occupations, and in the country, his idle hours have been usually passed in her society. The Prince observed with concern that his daughter repelled all proposals of marriage made to her. Though wooed by the most eligible suitors, among them the heirs of the richest families, members of the most ancient nobility, gentlemen filling the highest official positions, even a prince, the young lady declined them all. After brooding for a long time over the possible reasons of his daughter's conduct, the Chancellor believing at last that he had fathomed the secret of her severity, opened his heart to her on the subject. He told her he felt sure that she must have become profoundly attached to some person inferior to herself in position and wealth. He then begged her to mention the name of the man to whom she had given her heart, as he, her father, was rich enough and powerful enough to change the conditions which might seem to render her lover an ineligible match. With flowing tears the young lady confessed that she did cherish such an affection as her father suspected, an affection that was returned, but that her lover was a simple lieutenant in the army. The next day the lieutenant appeared in the presence of the father. The Chancellor hardly gave him time to speak before saying, "I know why it seems to you impossible to become my son-in-law notwithstanding the difference of social position your wish shall be accomplished. Though I do not know you, the love of my daughter is to me sufficient guaranty of your worth." But instead of the joyful thanks which the Prince naturally expected, he received a reply of the following tenor: "I thank you for your infinite goodness, but this union is impossible. I belong to an old Catholic family. I cannot take home as my wife the daughter of him whom my family regard as the enemy of the Church, whom I myself am almost compelled to look upon as such." The officer then sadly took leave and withdrew, leaving the Chancellor utterly confounded, who had little anticipated such a reception of his condescension.

Having summoned his daughter, the Chancellor told her that her officer wholly refused her hand, and that she must forget him. The daughter, becoming pale as death, ever, replied, "He is too honorable to deny his religious faith. I will not ask of him such a sacrifice, and if he desire it I, less believing than he, will adopt his religion to render our marriage possible." The father saw his child become more inconsolable from day to day, and at length he was thrown into a state of fearful excitement which was not without consequences. So things stand at present. How they will end no one can foresee.

As already remarked, if this story is true, it is fairly interesting. We now add that if it is false, it is still not without interest as an illustration of the feeling which attends the conflict between Church and State in Germany, and as a specimen of the gossip to which BISMARCK's illness has given origin.

IN THE speech, somewhat famous at the time, which Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER addressed to the members of the Evangelical Alliance on the occasion of their formal visit to Brooklyn, the Plymouth church pastor paid a handsome tribute to the worth of the foreign born element of the American people. It was not general laudation, a sweeping, comprehensive puff in the style of a demagogue, (whatever else, BEECHER is no demagogue,) but substantially a statement of fact. It was easy to perceive why Mr. BEECHER made it. He knew that he was addressing a good many gentlemen who, faithful to the traditions and prejudices of their respective countries, had no great faith in the honesty or other virtues of their own countrymen *en masse*. In Great Britain, and especially in Germany, the well educated classes, the scholars, regard the moral sense of the multitude as very low, even the clergy of the State churches very commonly holding the multitude in as much contempt as may be supposed compatible with any measure of Christian faith. Probably a large majority of the class sincerely believe that national credit and honor would almost certainly perish if left wholly in the hands of the popular masses. Of course Mr. BEECHER made no allusion to these prevalent old world ideas, but he particularly and emphatically called the attention of the Evangelical Alliance members from abroad to the fact that the schemes of our repudiationist demagogues had been put down by the aid of the foreign vote, and that the foreign element of the American population can be confidently relied upon to sustain the financial credit of the nation. The statement, we have been assured, made a profound impression.

Of this passage of Mr. BEECHER's speech we are reminded by the fact that the German Republican papers of the West, so far as we can learn, are unanimous in hostility to the disguised repudiation which is favored by some prominent Republican leaders in that section of the country. It seems that the fourteenth resolution of the Philadelphia Platform in which "repudiation in every form and in whatever disguise" is denounced as a "national crime," was written in the office of the Illinois *Staats Zeitung*, the ablest and most influential organ of German opinion in the West. Whatever other Western people may think of it, the President's late veto will receive the approval of the Western Germans. Elsewhere, of course, the Germans have been and are opposed to the bill which the President has vetoed.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is no longer—Let us inflate; but let us cremate.

All parts of Florida abound in railroad enterprises.

It looks as though "delicate-footed May" would need rubbers.

The next great agitation will be the transportation problem.

The Democratic party has great expectations—and not much else.

The world is still in the making in the delta of the Mississippi.

We are opposed to two Governors in Arkansas, but in favor of their execution.

The snow is three or four feet deep still, near the headwaters of the Connecticut.

"Take your time, Miss Lucy." A Congressional session into August is talked of.

The French tradesman who recently swallowed a fork has picked up his health again.

Is the Democratic party committed to an irredeemable paper money system? Beck says so.

We didn't happen to think of it before—but when the Duke of Edinburgh married, he caught a Tartar.

Detroit claims to be the only town in the Union where neither Nilsson or Neilson owns a corner lot.

Cremation gathers constantly new adherents. Words that burn are spoken and written in its favor.

If Grant can weather the praise of the New York *Herald* he may be considered morally invulnerable.

Time's revenge. Ferney, Voltaire's Swiss retreat, is now the home of the banished Catholic bishop, Mermillod.

It looks as if there were a "job" concealed under this outside show of zeal at Washington for the Cuban cause.

Free banking is to be the next financial problem in Congress. We hope it will be solved without much free talking.

The "temperance crusade" is apparently subsiding, and, like all sudden ebullitions, it will doubtless soon effervesce and pass off.

The hull of the steamship L'Amerique was found to be tight. Was that the condition of her officers when they abandoned her?

It is proposed in England to give the ballot to widows or spinsters living on annuities, or carrying on small retail trades in boroughs.

Half the talk about corruption, and the want of high moral and intellectual qualities in public men, comes from disappointed politicians.

Secretary Richardson has left Washington on a brief trip for the benefit of his health. He should stay away for the benefit of the Treasury.

Daniel Boone may not have been a very good speller, but it took a man of thought to write that "civilized never made a man of principle to be lost."

England, within the ten years between 1861 and 1871, built dwelling houses to the value of more than two hundred and twenty million pounds sterling.

The terms of the French postal treaty with the United States have been finally agreed upon, and the rates will be made known in a day or two.

Sharp. The United States trade dollars lately coined are worth $1 03 in gold, and on coming into circulation in Nevada they are "clipped" with a neat profit.

Worse than gunpowder. During the last ten years, $20,000,000 of property has been destroyed, and $30,000 persons killed or injured, by the use of unsafe oils.

No fewer than thirty steamers and two sailing vessels were employed in carrying the pilgrims to Mecca from the north coast of Africa during the past year.

The present season promises to be characterized by unusual dullness in the real estate market. Such is the general tenor of the reports from almost every city.

The happy suggestion that Miss Nellie Grant's approaching marriage may have brought about the veto, is the bright inspiration of a Democratic paper in Kentucky.

Dean Stanley's text, when he recently preached to the newly married Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, was: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

A Curious Story.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field lately learned that the medal voted him by Congress, which was reported lost, had turned up in one of General Spinner's safes. He applied to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the duplicate issued to him in its stead. The Secretary sent for Gen. Spinner and requested him to make the exchange, whereupon that gentleman replied with astonishment that he had sent it to the mint to be melted up, according to the Secretary's orders. Mr. Richardson, on his side, was equally astonished, knowing that he had given no such order. Gen. Spinner produced the order signed by Richardson, which, by the initials on the upper left hand corner, was traced to the secretary's own office. Now it turned out that the chief of this division had taken it into his head that the medal should be melted up, and accordingly had a clerk write out an order to that effect, which he presented to the Secretary for his signature, with a lot of other papers prepared by the division, which the Secretary signed—probably while some one was talking to him on business—in the customary way, without reading, taking for granted that the division to which certain matters had unavoidably been referred had prepared the proper papers. A dispatch was then sent to Philadelphia countermanding the return of the medal; but the question remains, How many and what papers has the Secretary of the Treasury signed in the same way, at whose instance, and to what effect?

THE question of civil burial is again arousing the attention of the French government. We have seen that the Socialists are accused of burying up the dead of the hospitals for the sake of getting up a demonstration over their interment. The government has determined to put a stop to this sacred scandal, and orders have been given to the hospital authorities to keep a sharp lookout. The *Pare de la Loire* reports a case from which it would appear that these orders are being carried out with rather too high a hand. "An old man," it says, "died the other day in the hospital at Nantes. He had several times expressed a desire to be buried without any religious ceremony. His children wished to fulfil it, but on arriving at the hospital with their friends on the day fixed for the burial they found the building occupied by a detachment of soldiers, the gendarmes and the prefect, with the Commissary of Police, who announced that the interment would be a religious and not a civil one. The family of the deceased were obliged to submit to this armed violation of conscience." The family have written to the papers to corroborate these facts.

AGASSIZ.

[From Lowell's Commemoratory Ode.]

It may be he shall tread
Outside the plain old path of God thus spake,
But God to him was very God,
And not a visionary wraith
Skulking in murky corners of the mind.
And he was sure to be
Somehow, somewhere, imperishable as He.
Not with His essence imperishably combined,
As some high spirits long, but whole and free,
A perfected and conscious Agassiz.
And such I figure him: the wise of old
Welcome and own him of their peaceful fold,
Not truly with the guild enrolled
Of him who seeking inward guessed
Diviner riddles than the rest,
And groping in the darkness of thought
Touched the Great Hand and knew it not;
He rather shares the daily light,
From reason's charier fountains won,
Of his great chief, the slow-paced Stagyrite,
And Cuvier chases once more his long lost son.
The shape erect is prone: forever stilled
The winning tongue; the forehead's high-plied heap,
A cairn which every science helped to build,
Unvalued with its golden secrets keep.
He knows at last if Life or Death be best,
Wherever he be flown, whatever rest.
If being hath put on which lately here
So many-friended was, so full of cheer
To make men glad, the Seeker's noble zest,
We have not lost him all; he is not gone
To the dumb herd of them that wholly die:
The best of his better self lives on
In minds he touched with fire, in many an eye
He trained with its golden secrets keep.
He was a Teacher; why be grieved for him
Whose living word still stimulates the air?
His was the human science, his its cues
The glow of his transmitted touch to share,
And trace his features with an eye less dim
Than ours whose sense familiar wont makes
numb.

* * * * * * *

Yea truly, as the sallowing years
Fall from us faster, like frost-loosened leaves
Stained by the autumn and the parching days,
And that unwakened winter nears,
'Tis the vast quiet ours surely wants receives,
'Tis lips long cold that give the warmest kiss,
'Tis the lost voice comes oftenest to our ears;
We count our rosary by the beads we miss.
—*May Atlantic.*

THE BLUEBIRD.

When ice is thawed and snow is gone,
And early sweetness decks the trees—
When snowbirds from the hedge have flown
And on the hive-porch swarm the bees,—
Drifting down the sunny wind
That thrills the earliest days of spring,
The bluebird sends his magic notes
And charms them into tasseling.

He sits among the delicate sprays,
With musts of splendor round him drawn,
And through the spring's prophetic veil
Sees summer's rich fulfillment dawn:
He sings, and his is Nature's voice—
A gush or melody sincere
From that great fount of harmony
That thus annually runs when spring is here.

Short is his song, but strangely sweet
To ears aweary of the low,
Dull tramp of winter's sullen feet,
Sandaled in ice and shrouded in snow:
Short is his song, but through it runs
A hint of dirtyannas to be—
A sweet suggestiveness that has
The influence of prophesy.

From childhood I have nursed a faith
In listening for the spring's coming:
They tell me, After frost and death
There comes a time of blossoming;
And after snow and canting sleet
The cold, stern mood of Nature yields
To tender warmth, when bare pink feet
Of children press her greening fields.

Sing strong and clear, O bluebird dear!
While all the land with splendor fills,
While maples gladden in the vales,
And farm-trees blossom on the hills:
Float down the wind on shining wings,
And do thy will by grove and stream,
While through my life spring's freshness runs
Like music through a poet's dream.
—*Moy Lapsincott.*

STATE NEWS.

The Clarion foundry is again in operation.

Potter county is to have a Democratic organ.

Allentown has a clergyman who favors cremation.

Thomas J. Walsh, City Marshal of Scranton, died last week.

Tracklaying on the Peach Bottom Railway is progressing rapidly.

Barnum's show contracted the currency in Reading to the extent of $6,000.

Unliquidated claims against the late Pottsville *Standard* amount to $13,000.

There were thirteen deaths in Reading during the week ending on the 21st inst.

Pottstown thieves enter gardens at night and dig up and carry off choice fruit trees.

Charles Dickens was run over and killed near Wilkesbarre the other day. He was a dog.

Bishop Kerfoot is going to lay the corner stone of the Grace Mission church in Erie, May 9.

The Juniata Sand Company, Blair county, ship about two hundred tons of sand per week.

The Warren *Ledger* says that all the lumber ready for rafting was run down the last flood.

Country editors are not backward in expressing their views on the "backwarding of spring."

The *Church Advocate*, heretofore published at Lancaster, has been removed to Harrisburg.

Clara Selby, aged thirteen years, was drowned at Madisonville, Chester county, on Thursday, 23d inst.

The trouble of the Duncannon nail feeders has been arranged, and now the entire works are in operation.

A Williamsport man has invented a garment combining both shirt and vest, and applied for a patent on it.

A plowing match, under the auspices of the Central Agricultural Society, takes place on the 13th inst., at Reading.

St. Elizabeth's Catholic church at Smethport, McKean county, was dedicated on Sunday last, Bishop Mullin, of Erie, officiating.

A woman named Cook, living in Corydon township, Warren county, was found dead in her bed on Saturday morning of last week.

A little daughter of Mr. Streeter, of Butler, was drowned in the creek, a few days ago, whither she had gone to get a bucket of water.

A boat containing four persons upset at Cameron on Thursday, 23d inst., and one of the men, J. C. Campbell, was drowned.

The Shamokin paper, enumerating the professional men of that place, closes the list with "one gentleman." How lonesome he must be!

Thomas Campbell and his brother-in-law, Peter Foy, got drunk together in Scranton, quarreled, and Foy shot Campbell through the ankle.

John F. Hemperly, a dissipated young man in Williamsport, raised money by signing other men's names to checks, and is now in jail at Lock Haven.

The Presbytery of Blairsville, consisting of twenty-six ministers and thirty-one churches, will meet in the Ebensburg Presbyterian church this afternoon.

The Rev. Mr. Geschwind, pastor of the English Lutheran church in Butler, will remove in a short time to Lima, O., where he will have charge of a large congregation.

It is proposed to hold the first meeting of a National Lumber Association, in which the trade throughout the United States shall be represented, at Williamsport, some time next year.

A six-year-old daughter of Mr. M. J. Hadley, of Amnin creek, McKean county, was burned to death, a few days ago. She overturned a coal oil lamp, which exploded, setting fire to her clothing.

The Sharon *Herald* says: It is the purpose of the directors of the First National bank to erect a fine high basement, three-story brick, at the corner of Water and Market bridge this summer. It is expected to be the finest business block in Sharon.

Burglars broke into a jewelry store in New Milford, Luzerne county, gagged and tied the jeweler, and thence made their way into a savings bank next door and blew open the safe, but failed to find any money, missing a bundle containing $3,000. No clue.

The famous Switchback Railroad at Mauch Chunk will hereafter be under the management of the New Jersey Central Railroad Company. No doubt under the new management the road will be improved and made a greater source of pleasure to excursionists.

Maj. Gen. Thos. J. Jordan, commanding the Fifth Division N. G. of Pa., and Lieutenant Col. S. H. Altemus, Division Inspector, having tendered their resignations to the Adjutant General, have been honorably discharged.

A young lady from Montgomery county, in attendance at the Normal School at Millersville, became dispirited and homesick, and on Wednesday, 22d inst., attempted to commit suicide by cutting her throat with a penknife, and stabbing herself in the neck with a pair of scissors.

A letter bearing the following address passed through the Harrisburg postoffice a few days ago: Please deliver to the man as directed below: "A man in Sprinkleburg, Fulton county, Ind., offers any one who will get him a wife a good cow and thirty dollars and twenty cords of wood."

A mad dog has been playing the mischief in Muhlenberg township, Berks county. Starting on Tuesday last, he went from farm to farm, biting every dog on the premises. This he kept up until Thursday, when he was shot. There is great excitement among the people, and the canines are being slaughtered promiscuously.

John Connor went to the Lancaster almshouse, recently, and asked the privilege of earning a pair of pantaloons and shoes. He was set to work digging in a pit; and on Thursday afternoon the bank caved in, covering him with thirteen feet of earth. It was an hour and a half before he was taken out, still alive, but so badly hurt that his recovery is considered very doubtful.

The next-door neighbors of the Mannix family, of Scranton, used some kind of patent vermin exterminator to get rid of the pests; this carried the "medicine" to the Mannix cellar and dropped it into a vessel of milk; the Mannixes, five in number, partook of the milk, and soon exhibited every symptom of having been poisoned. Prompt use of antidotes saved their lives, but left them very sick.

An aged man lay upon his dying bed in Danville; his grown up children, summoned from distant homes, stood weeping around him. An old friend called to take his last farewell, and was motioned to the bedside. Grasping the visitor's hand, the sick man gasped: "Judge, can you tell me where I can get a good ten per cent. mortgage?" The Judge departed, firm in the conviction that death had no business about that house just then.

Mrs. Charles Reinhard, of Shamrock, Berks county, committed suicide on the 22d inst., by hanging herself in the garret of her husband's house, with a strip of linen torn from a sheet. She was only twenty-four years old, had two bright and interesting children, and lived happily with her husband. She had of late brooded much over spiritual things, her morbid state of mind having been aggravated by frequent attendance at prayer meetings in the M. E. church, where the exercises were particularly loud and exciting.

Thomas Belfry, of lawful age, loved Miss Keesy, aged fifteen, and would have made her his bride, but parental authority forbade the consummation of the desires of the young couple. Thinking to steal a march on the old folk, the pair planned an elopement, and met at the station in New Bethlehem, Clarion county, there to take the train in search of some complaisant minister or magistrate. But James Keesy, the young lady's father, put in an appearance, and persuaded his daughter to return home with him. While they were on their way thither, Belfry attacked Keesy, beating him terribly with a piece of plank, and then made off by railroad. He was followed, arrested, and now languishes in the Clarion jail.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Kavanagh, a member of the British Parliament, has neither legs or arms. He holds his pen in his mouth when he signs his name.

Nast has been compelled by the state of his health to abandon lecturing. He is now in Minnesota, and has relinquished nearly fifty engagements.

The marriage act between citizen General Bonaparte and the widow citoyenne Josephine Beauharnais was recently sold at a book auction in Paris.

John C. Fremont is in San Francisco. A few years ago his presence there would have been the signal for a series of receptions and ovations, but now he receives only a passing notice.

Truth is said to be stranger than fiction. The admission, last Friday, of Colonel William P. Adair, of the Cherokee nation of Indians, to practice as an attorney in the Supreme Court of the United States, is an illustration of the saying.

General T. Morris Chester, who addressed the colored people of this city last fall, is an aspirant for a seat in Congress from the Second district of Louisiana. The New Orleans *Picayune* commends him as the most cultivated and highly-educated colored man in the State.

"Joey," the chimpanzee at the Zoological Gardens, London, when dying evinced the greatest dislike to being alone, and held the keeper's hand tightly in his, so as to prevent his leaving the room. As generally animals slink away to die alone in some corner, this craving for human society is curious. When the keeper left him with some orange juice, only a few days before he died, "Joey" put up his face to kiss him, and followed him about the room with his eyes in the most touching manner.

A correspondent of the Petersburg *News* met Hon. A. H. Stephens on the cars *en route* for his home in Georgia, when Mr. S. said: "I am going home to die. I have been a great sufferer, but this is the first time that any vital organ has been attacked. Until this my general health was better than for thirty years, but this has been terrible, and I must soon yield unless I am relieved. I hope I may recover, but I scarcely expect it. I am now sixty-three years of age, and my constitution will not stand such a severe test." Of President Grant he said: "I regard him as a good and conscientious man, and believe he has the good of the country at heart."

King Kalakana, the recently elected ruler of the Sandwich Islands, promises to become very popular, especially among the firemen. He served for thirteen years in the fire department of Honolulu, and at the time he was elected King, was foreman of Hawaii Engine Company No. 4. Recently the firemen of Honolulu formed a procession and marched to the King's palace to offer their congratulations. Kalakana, in reply to the Chief Engineer, said he should always feel proud to consider himself an active member of the fire department, and that he should deem it his duty, when emergencies arise, to join the firemen on the brakes.

The Great Army Reunion at Harrisburg.

The arrangements for the meeting of the Society of the Army of the Potomac and other army societies, and the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be held at Harrisburg on the 11th, 12th and 13th of May, are almost complete, and give promise of a gala time for the many veterans who are expected to attend.

The Ninth Army Corps meeting will take place on Monday, the 11th, to be followed by a banquet in the evening.

Tuesday will be occupied with the meeting of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, and those of the various corps societies. In the evening a public reception will be given by the citizens, and then will follow a banquet in honor of the Society of the Army of the Potomac.

On Wednesday the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will convene, and in the evening the public proceedings will be closed by a banquet in honor of the delegates to the encampment. Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Hancock, Burnside, McDowell, Belknap, Franklin and other distinguished soldiers will be present.

A large gathering and a pleasant time may be anticipated, and an opportunity will be afforded